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Kent on Sunday

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Don't force our plans off track in race to build HS2 rail network

Exclusive by Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LONG-SUFFERING rail commuters have accused the Government of turning its back on the "incomplete" High Speed One project so it can push ahead with plans for High Speed Two.

The Alliance of Kent Commuters says HS1, launched in 2009, provides an inconsistent service which fails to benefit all of the county's passengers.

What's more, it says the costs of HS2 are likely to fall – in part at least – upon the shoulders of Kent's rail users.

It argues the fast rail line does not reach huge swathes of the county, meaning the so-called high speed trains are unable to travel at speed until either Ashford or Ebbsfleet. And they argue that some commuters are being hit with extortionate costs of more than £6,000 for a season ticket, despite not benefiting from the full service.

Co-founder of the alliance, John Nicholson, said the latest HS2 scheme – which would dramatically reduce journey times between northern cities, such as Manchester and Birmingham, and London – was a "vanity project" for the Government and that ministers should be looking at improving fast lines in Kent before spending billions on another high speed project.

He told this newspaper: "HS1 has benefitted some people, but for many of us it's done nothing except make the classic services worse.

"It all depends on where you live.

"Why is the Government not looking to upgrade the lines here in parts of Kent? Why is it not looking to extend the line to Manston?

"Instead of improving and finishing

Continued on page 2

CHEF COOKS UP A STORM

YUM: Richard Phillips has won back his Michelin star and he's back on TV – **SEE INSIDE**

EVENTS

Hop Farm in Power boost

MUSIC mogul Vince Power has broken his silence to insist the Hop Farm Festival will be back this summer - despite ticket sales being so poor last year they contributed to his company going bust.

The event has previously attracted the likes of Prince and Morrissey. **PAGE 3**

AUTHORITIES

Tory calls for council review

SHOULD Kent County Council be scrapped and we shift to a string of unitary authorities? That's the question posed this week by one Tory councillor.

He wants a debate into whether we could all see significant savings – including a big drop in our council tax bill – by doing so. **PAGE 5**

CRIME

Do dispersal zones work?

DISPERSAL zones are frequently being deployed around the county in a bid to crack down on anti-social behaviour.

But are they the most effective weapon or do they simply push the problem elsewhere? We take a look at both sides of the controversial argument this week. **PAGE 26**

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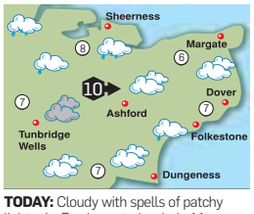

TODAY: Cloudy with spells of patchy light rain. Fresh westerly winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Dry, but rather cloudy. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	03.09	6.3	15.38	6.0
Margate	04.05	4.5	16.33	4.3
St Mary's	09.09	5.0	21.41	4.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 2C
Tuesday	Max 8C	Min 1C
Wednesday	Max 7C	Min 0C
Thursday	Max 6C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 6C	Min 0C
Saturday	Max 6C	Min -2C

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FULL SPEED AHEAD: Commuters have called for the full roll out of High Speed One before the government looks to start on a new fast train project

TRANSPORT

High speed trains 'a beneficial service'

Continued from front page

HS1, the Government is going to spend £30 billion – during a recession – on HS2.

"Every single train user in the country, that includes us in Kent, will end up paying for this white elephant."

North Thanet MP, Sir Roger Gale, this week called on transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin to see the HS1 service completed to Thanet, adding a "project started had to be seen through".

"If the government wants a seriously good advertisement for high speed rail then the answer is swift and simple; pick up where the last Labour government failed and finish HS1," he said.

The transport secretary acknowledged the benefits of the fast service to Kent and the desire to see the project finished.

Kent County Council met for talks with transport minister Simon Burns in December about the possible extension of the high speed line between Ashford and Ramsgate.

The controversy around HS2 reared its head again this week as the Government released more information about its plans – sparking concern from residents and politicians who discovered their constituencies would fall in its path.

None of which will be a stranger to the people of Kent. Some 25 years ago the county was in exactly the same position as many towns and rural hamlets faced up to the reality of having their homes and businesses torn up to make way for the high-speed link.

It faced a chorus of criticism then – but in retrospect, has been hailed a success for many parts of the county.

Malcolm Triggs worked at Ashford Borough Council when the high speed plans were first unveiled.

"Our main concern was making sure it went through the station in the town – it was arguably going to be outside the town, which the council didn't want," he said. "I think that's the issue affecting some stations in Kent, that the high speed doesn't travel through.

"However, I think HS1 is a beneficial service for most people."

Mr Triggs said one of the fears of people living in areas on the planned HS1 line, when proposals were first revealed, was the disruption it would cause and potential damage to the environment.

"I think the impact is much less than people feared – this isn't an airport, there aren't planes flying overhead all the time, so it's not that noisy," he said.

"I think it's fair to say that their worst fears were not realised, although I know there will be a few affected and that must be heartbreaking for them.

"In terms of the countryside, it's a bit of metal running through and most of it follows existing lines."

Chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Jo James, said HS1 has been beneficial to the economy.

"It has encouraged businesses to move into the county, helped maintain the construction industry and is already proving of benefit in developing the local economy," she said. "The much-feared blight associated with the construction of the line and the running of the trains really never happened. I'm sure most people in Kent would now agree that the high speed link has blended into the environment with no more disruption than that imposed by the previously existing transport links and property values in the county have maintained a much healthier level than many other parts of the country."

Details of the next phase of HS2 were unveiled by the Government this week.

It will cost £32bn, be constructed by 2033 and slash journey times between the cities of Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham and London significantly.

Transport economics expert from the University of Kent, Professor Roger Vickerman, predicted that HS2 could be good news for Kent's economy.

"Whilst much of the focus is on the possible environmental effects of the route, a key element of the plan is that it includes a link from the new HS2 route to HS1," he said.

"In principle this could allow high-speed services to operate from Ashford to the Midlands and North, boosting even further the integration of Kent into the UK economy."

He added: "At the same time, experience of living with HS1 in Kent can allow a demonstration of how quickly new infrastructure can be absorbed without creating the devastation being predicted by some."

MILLIONS USE SERVICE TO LONDON

Southeastern, which runs the service in Kent, said HS1 has been popular ever since it was first introduced.

A spokesman said: "Just last month we celebrated 25 million journeys on the service in the space of three years.

"The fast journeys, quality and connections at St Pancras International has meant that each year more than a million extra journeys are made – we saw seven million journeys in the first year, eight million in the second year and now over nine million journeys each year.

"Customers have given the high speed service a mark of 95 per cent for satisfaction in the most recent National Passenger Survey.

"We're constantly looking at how we can improve our services. Since high speed was launched we've extended the service to places such as Sandwich and Deal and put on more trains at weekends and during the busy peak hour. Our focus is to continue to strive for more improvements to offer the best possible service for our passengers."

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EVENT

Music mogul Power insists Hop Farm Festival will return again

Exclusive

By Chris Britcher
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MUSIC promoter Vince Power has broken his silence to vow the Hop Farm Festival will return this summer – despite losing so much money last year it resulted in his company going into administration.

But the legendary music mogul insisted to KoS this week the event will be staged at the Paddock Wood site and that he expects to start unveiling the line-up "very shortly".

It will come as a surprise to many following the well-publicised collapse of Mr Power's company, Music Festivals plc, at the end of last year.

The firm began to teeter shortly after the Kent event, when it admitted tickets had blown a hole in finances.

It blamed a perfect storm of a squeeze on spending, the London 2012 Olympics, a flurry of free festivals and the wet weather as ingredients to its disappointing returns.

Shortly afterwards, the company, which floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in the summer of 2011 valued at £10m, spluttered to a halt worth just £310,000 as shares were suspended.

The three-day summer festival had received rave reviews in recent years, attracting such performers as Prince, Morrissey, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, Bob Dylan and Neil Young.

Speaking this week, Mr Power said: "The Hop Farm Festival will go ahead this year.

"As you know, we had a difficult year last year... and it has taken some time to deal with."

Just days after Music Festivals plc floundered, Mr Power had All Music Live Ltd up and running out of the same offices in Kilburn, London.

He adds: "It was always my intention to do the Hop Farm, I have the rights to do the Hop Farm and the Hop Farm will take place from July 5-7 in 2013.

"At the moment, we have sold a small amount of early bird tickets and we are confirming acts. We hope to announce the bill very shortly."

However, to further muddy the waters, the Paddock Wood venue was unable to confirm this week whether it would be hosting the event for a sixth year.

After previously insisting the event was due to take place – despite a deafening silence from Mr Power – it appeared to change its tune.

A spokesman said: "We'd rather not comment on this but simply say negotiations are taking place."

With tickets – costing £125 each – remaining on sale in recent months, there had been concerns the event could be a victim of the complexities of the financial fall-out of the collapse of Music Festivals plc and unwitting ticket buyers left out of pocket. A spokesman for the event had refused to confirm whether it would return for 2013 last autumn.

Mr Power had previously confirmed the festival had yet to break even during its five-year history.

It is believed the 2011 event was on track to make a profit when the opportunity to add Prince for his first ever UK festival show became available. It is thought the fee to book the American star was in the region of £600,000 – which despite adding thousands of extra ticket sales, contributed to it making a loss.

The Hop Farm Festival is one of just two major mainstream music festivals in the county. The other is Lounge on the Farm which is due to take place in July this year. Organisers say plans are well advanced and they expect to announce their line-up over the coming weeks.

LET'S GO CRAZY: Vince Power is the music promoter behind the Hop Farm Festival, which has seen the likes of Prince as a headline act

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lord Coe speaks up

LONDON 2012 organiser and Olympic gold medal winner Sebastian Coe will be special guest speaker at an event in Maidstone in May.

Lord Coe will be the principal speaker at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel on May 2.

The event will be a special fundraiser for military charity, Help For Heroes.

Organiser, and former soldier Steve Craddock, has already raised more than £250,000 for the charity.

£1m lottery winner

A MYSTERY ticket holder from the county had a Christmas Day to remember last month after it was revealed on Thursday she scooped £1 million on the lottery.

The winner, known only as Miss P, was one of 25 guaranteed millionaires created by the EuroMillions Millionaire Raffle draw.

She didn't even have the chance to lose her ticket as she had entered online and received an email telling her she had won the loot.

Jobs threat at school

DOZENS of staff at the Bishop of Rochester Academy face an uncertain future, according to union chiefs, after the school admitted it was having to look at cutting staff in order to meet budgets.

The school, which is currently putting the finishing touches to a £23 million new site in Chatham, admitted a consultation process with those affected is currently under way. The union Unison says it fears up to 30 jobs could be lost.

See our website www.kentnews.co.uk for the full story.

CRIME

French murder case charge

POLICE in France have charged a 32-year-old man from Chatham with the murder of a woman, found stabbed to death in a frenzied attack in Nimes.

Robert Plant moved from Medway to the town in south west France 22 years ago, but made headlines here for all the wrong reasons as details of the brutal murder emerged.

The body of mother-of-three Joudia Zimmate was found in brambles earlier this week. She had been out jogging.

Mr Plant has been placed under 'formal investigation' by French police, while a judge considers the next step. Any trial is expected to be several months away.

The 32-year-old moved to France when he was 10, and a relative still in the county said he took to the culture quickly.

His uncle, David Ripley, from Dartford, said the family moved to France as Mr Plant's father Dennis was half French. He described the suspect as now "more French than British".

He added: "It has come as a real shock. I feel sorry for my sister, her husband died in the summer and now this. They are such a lovely family."

Mr Plant is understood to live with his mother, Esther. They are believed to live in a two-storey gated villa close to where the body of the victim was found.

The alarm was raised after Ms Zimmate failed to collect her daughter from school.

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POLITICS

Tory calls for debate into the future of county council in bid to reduce household tax bills

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CONSERVATIVE councillor has called for discussions into the potential creation of unitary authorities and the subsequent abolishment of Kent County Council (KCC).

He insists such a move would see a huge reduction in each household's council-tax bill.

Canterbury City Council member Simon Cook argued that significant savings could be made if the current two-tier system – involving the county and district councils – was scrapped and services delivered by a local unitary authority for the different parts of Kent, as seen in Medway.

But county-council supporters have slammed the idea, stating that Kent as a whole is a powerful lobbying group that can influence the Government to the benefit of residents.

They argue that groundbreaking initiatives, such as the countywide telehealth scheme – which allows patients to be monitored remotely from the comfort of their home – would not have been possible without the vision of KCC.

Cllr Cook, however, said that making the district councils into unitaries would probably lead to savings, move decision-making to a local level and stop duplication of services.

KCC deals with services including schools, roads and social care. District councils deliver services including bins, waste and housing. Some areas, such as street-lighting, overlap.

Cllr Cook said: "At the moment, some services are delivered by KCC and others by the district councils – some of these overlap.

"These layers of duplication in management could be stripped out if district councils became unitary and delivered all services.

"At the moment we also have councillors having to travel all the way to meetings 30 miles away in Maidstone.

"We have a two-year offset between county and district elections, so one set of councillors always has an eye on elections; removing this would allow more long-term planning.

"Yes, there would be fewer councillors – another saving – but given that the unitary councillors would now be making all the decisions, I don't see this as a democratic deficit.

"This removing of a tier of government could be combined with empowering parish and town councils to further add to the localising of decision-making."

Some district services in east Kent are shared by Shepway, Dover, Canterbury and Thanet, prompting speculation some years ago that there were plans of a shift towards a unitary-type system – a claim always hotly denied by county chiefs.

Cllr Cook said: "Kent is big and diverse. West Kent is different to east Kent. I'm not saying the unitary approach is even viable, but I don't see why we can't discuss it.

"If the benefits of moving to unitary status could be clearly demonstrated, this would be a pragmatic and straightforward way of devolving decision-making closer to local people.

"I have residents contact me about roads or schools and I have to tell them to contact KCC. It would make more sense to have one council responsible for everything."

IDEAS: Cllr Simon Cook

He stressed, however, that unitary status should not be forced on a district council.

KCC argues that it represents the interests of people over a wide area, making it easier to work alongside organisations such as Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

A spokesman said this meant being able to fight for large-scale resources, such as national and European funding, to service the whole county.

Last year, the Expansion East Kent scheme was launched thanks to funding from the Government's Regional Growth Fund following extensive lobbying by KCC and after drugs giant Pfizer's shock exit from Sandwich.

KCC had pushed to secure Enterprise Zone status to help lessen the economic impact.

■ **What do you think? Would you prefer to simply have one point of contact for all council services? Or do you believe in the power of a union with KCC providers? Share your views. Write to us at: The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or you can email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

HOW AUTHORITY BEGAN

THE unitary authority of Medway was formed in 1998, when the City of Rochester-upon-Medway amalgamated with Gillingham Borough Council and part of KCC to form Medway Council.

It is independent of Kent County Council and delivers its own services, including education and roads.

A spokesman said part of the reason it became a unitary authority was due to its local geography.

"It is a reasonably large urban and self-contained area as it has a population of more than 260,000 – one of the largest conurbations in the UK that is not a city or does not have a city in it."

County council

- represents the interests of people over a wider area.
- easier to work alongside organisations such as Kent Police and KFRS.
- able to fight for large-scale resources, such as national and European funding, to serve the whole county.
- helps to carry out initiatives, policies and services across local boundaries.
- a powerful lobbying group due to size, as seen in the influence Kent seeks over the rail franchises and aviation capacity.

VERSUS

Unitary authority

- reduced costs, including back-office savings. Departments and work aren't duplicated.
- public have only one authority with which to deal.
- councillors can play a larger role in service provision and be held to account.
- better strategic direction with just one executive and senior-management team.
- unitaries bring services closer to the people they serve from potentially distant county councils.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stuck in chest-high mud

EMERGENCY crews had to mount a rescue after a youngster found himself stuck in mud up to his chest off Minster-in-Sheppey.

Rescue teams were called out to save the man, plus a 13- and 21-year-old who also found themselves trapped in the mud as they attempted to reach him.

Fire, police, lifeboat, ambulance and coastguard crews were involved in the "long and difficult rescue". All three were unharmed.

Boundaries stay same

CONSTITUENCY borders will stay the same for the next General Election, it was confirmed this week.

In an effort to cut the number of MPs from 650 to 600, the Boundary Commission had proposed a number of changes – including removing the Faversham and Mid Kent seat held by sports minister Hugh Robertson.

MPs voted out the plans, however, meaning there will be no changes until at least 2018.

A21 death fall appeal

POLICE want to hear from anyone who saw a 70-year-old woman fall to her death from a bridge over the busy A21 Sevenoaks bypass last Sunday.

The road between Hildenborough and Westerham was shut for several hours after the incident occurred at about 9.30am.

Police say the death is not being treated as suspicious.

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ECONOMY

Life down on the farm getting a lot better thanks to the tourist trade

By Joe Bill
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AMID ever-tightening margins and a flood of cheap imports, the bank balance of many farmers has taken a severe pounding in recent years.

But it seems they are experiencing an essential shot in the arm courtesy of a perhaps unlikely source – the tourist trade.

As more and more farmers diversify to stay afloat, many are finding the option of becoming a holiday location is providing them with a bumper harvest.

The equation is simple; provide holiday accomodation from self-catering to bed and breakfast, and with rates potentially bringing in more than £1,000 a week for a one-week family stay, it quickly adds up to sound business sense.

In addition, it draws more tourists into the county, who, in turn, spend in the local economy.

Litte wonder there are already 30 Kent venues who have signed up to one particular scheme. They include sites in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Sheppey, Maidstone, Dover, Canterbury, Romney Marsh and Tonbridge.

Farm Stay UK is one group which has looked to encourage both foreign tourists and Brits to holiday at home and make use of what the British countryside. Unsurprisingly, Kent has swiftly found itself among the most in-demand locations.

What's more, it has capitalised on the 'staycation' trend which has seen many families turn their back on expensive foreign jaunts, prefering instead to stay closer to home.

The nationwide company, which recently celebrated its 30-year anniversary, operates as a travel agent promoting converted farmhouses, woodland hideaways and eco-lodges.

"When we first launched as the Farm Holiday Bureau, with the help of Farmers' Weekly, 30 years ago, we could have only dreamed of the organisation becoming what it is today," said Andy Woodward, Farm Stay UK's chief executive.

He estimates since its creation it has ploughed some £3.5 billion into the UK's rural economy.

Speaking during an event at Brenley House Farm, at Boughton, near Faversham, he added: "We started our 30th year with 450,000 visits to our website.

"It's a wonderful feeling knowing that these are potentially 450,000 pairs of feet through farm gates, each visitor helping to put money back into the rural economy and in turn helping the farming industry to survive.

"More and more of our members are looking ahead to offer unique experiences, putting them in a much better position to not simply survive, but flourish."

The company now boasts more than 1,000 members.

Local food producers, chefs and representatives of the Kent tourism trade attended the event held by Farm Stay UK member Maggie Berry, all keen to learn more on how to tap into revenue streams which can quite often be the difference between survival or financial collapse.

Mrs Berry runs Brenley House Farm, a 400-acre farm which grows that very Kentish combination of apples, pears and hops.

She said: "For a lot of farms it is now an essential part of their farming business. Most of the proceeds get ploughed back into the farm, but that can vary depending on the size of the farm."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at tourim group Visit Kent, said: "Developing and enhancing Kent's rural tourism is high on our agenda and we are delighted to be working with Farm Stay UK."

■ **For more information go to www.farmstay.co.uk.**

BUMPER CROP: Many farmers cash in on providing holiday accomodation

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FIRES

Beware the hidden threat to your home

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR years we have been told to take extra care with naked flames, to make sure cigarette ends are not left smouldering and to be super careful with deep fat fryers.

But while our homes have become safer from the dangers of fire, and more smoke alarms are ready to alert us if there is a problem, there has been a rise in a new breed of danger; the humble appliance.

From tumble dryers to dishwashers, phone chargers to fridge freezers, it would seem a major threat now is from those pieces of equipment we never expected. As a result, the fire service is urging us all to take extra care.

Analysing its figures over the past three years, the brigade said the number of fires caused by domestic equipment has remained steady, but is still high.

It found in 2010, tumble dryers were the worst offenders with 12 fires, then 19 in 2011 and 17 last year.

There were 14 dishwasher fires, which rose to 16 in 2011 and fell slightly to 12 last year.

An average of one a month is too many, the service said.

There were seven fires starting in fridge freezers in 2010, rising to 11 and then falling again to six in 2012.

Washer-dryers seemed the safest with just two incidents in the past three years.

A spokesman for Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) said: "Electrical fires are accountable for about 50 to 60 per cent of all domestic property fires nationally. We are publicising these incidents more to raise awareness.

"Crews will leaflet drop and visit homes in an area after a fire to give advice, but we always encourage people to follow our safety tips through various proactive engagement activities too.

"We are working with Canterbury Christ Church University to research the nature and range of these types of fires while also liaising closely with other fire and rescue services, Kent Trading Standards and other safety and prevention organisations, to gather information and provide consistent advice to the public.

"Our advice is always that if you have any concerns about a particular appliance then call the manufacturer and/or a qualified electrician.

"The best protection is to have a working smoke alarm so that in the event of a fire breaking out, you have early warning and can get yourself and your family to safety."

KFRS head of community safety, Stuart Skilton said: "Fires can break out in electrical appliances and power outlets with very little warning.

"Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every floor of your home and never operate dishwashers, tumble dryers or washing machines while out of the property or overnight."

■ **Call 0800 923 7000, email hsv@kent.fire-uk.org or visit the website at www.kent.fire-uk.org for details.**

SAFETY ADVICE

- If you are going to be out for a while, switch off and unplug all electrical appliances.
- Do not leave items constantly on charge as this can lead to the battery or other internal components overheating.
- Don't run leads or cables under carpets or rugs – you won't be able to see if they become damaged.
- Avoid second-hand electrical goods, and if you have to use an adapter, use a fused 'in line' type.
- Avoid multi-way adapters and overloading electrical sockets.

FIRES IN 2012

17 sparked by tumble dryers

12 sparked by dishwashers

6 sparked by fridge freezers

EQUIPMENT

Modernising firefighting

IT may look more at home as part of the Moon landings, but this all-terrain vehicle is the latest weapon in the bid to crackdown on fires in remote woodland areas.

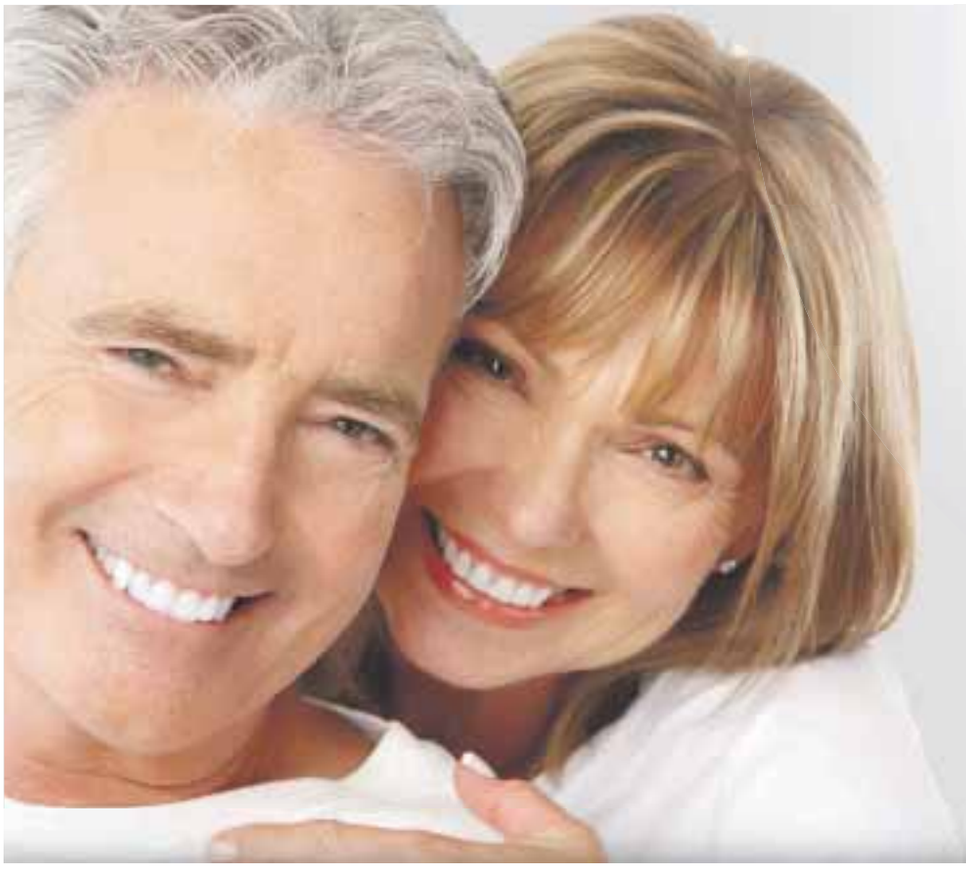
The eight-wheeled vehicles can get fire crews and equipment to woods and moorlands impossible for a traditional heavy fire engine to reach.

It forms part of a host of new equipment Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) has taken delivery of.

Other new items include a system which uses a hand-held lance that bores aggregate to punch a small hole through a roof or wall. It then switches to a super fine mist that reduces the temperature. This means firefighters can get into the property more quickly and safely to conduct rescues or other firefighting. It uses a fraction of the water of a traditional hose and so generally would cause less damage and save more of the property.

KFRS director of operational policy and resilience, Steve Demetriou, said: "We have so far had a 'one size fits all' model and used traditional fire engines for every type of incident, but technology and firefighting has moved on.

"It makes sense to take advantage of new technology so we can reach and tackle certain incidents quicker and, at the same time, save money. However we will always need traditional fire engines and we are investing by buying new models to replace existing engines that have reached the end of their useful life."



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CHARITY

Air ambulance's blood service takes to the sky courtesy of race legend

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE hundred patients a year are to benefit from air ambulance crews carrying blood supplies for the first time – paid for by a charity set up to remember the tragic son of a former Formula One champion.

It means emergency crews will be able to provide blood transfusions at the scene of incidents across the county, potentially saving lives in the process. Until now, blood supplies had only been carried on air ambulances serving London.

Now it will be carried on the two aircraft that are shared between Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

And the funding will be handed over by the only man to have won world championships on both two and four-wheels – John Surtees.

The racing hero saw his son Henry tragically killed during a Formula Two race at Brands Hatch in July 2009. He was struck in the face by a tyre which had come off a competitor's car following a crash and was killed instantly.

Following his death, his father, who has offices in Edenbridge, set up the Henry Surtees Foundation to raise funds in his memory.

And on Monday he will hand over a cheque for up to £40,000 to fund the blood transfusion equipment needed.

Mr Surtees said: "The foundation was set up and one day when in his room, I saw a helicopter that he loved and thought we could do something for that service."

The money comes from a series of fundraising events including some at Buckmore Park in Chatham.

Mr Surtees added: "Henry would have liked what we've done. This is something that will help every man, woman and child in our community."

The foundation, along with carmaker Honda, will also provide two new Honda CRV vehicles for SERV, or Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers.

In all weathers, these can transport blood between hospitals and the helicopters' bases. In Kent that will be between the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford to the Marden airfield where the air ambulance is stationed.

Adrian Bell, the chief executive of the air ambulance service said: "This will benefit around 100 patients a year."

FLYING HIGH: The air ambulance will now be able to carry blood supplies thanks to £40,000 donation

Destined for racing career until tragedy

HENRY Surtees had motorsport in his blood given his father's remarkable pedigree.

From the age of eight, he took part in his first kart race and swiftly started making his way through the ranks.

Tipped as a future star, he was killed in a freak racing accident aged just 18.

The charity set up in his name has several key aims. They are to:

- Assist people with brain or physical injuries caused by accident to return to community living.
- Provide education and training associated with motorsport-related programmes and road safety instruction for two and four wheels
- Act as a resource for young people up to the age of 18 by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities in order to advance their lives.

LOSS: John Surtees with son Henry

CRIME

Police stop cars in bid to ease rural crime

A CRACKDOWN on rural crime took place last weekend, with road checks held across Tunbridge Wells, Swale, Ashford and Maidstone.

It formed part of Kent Police's cross-border rural crime operation and resulted in a number of people being quizzed. One car was found to contain hunting equipment, and another seized as officers believed it had been used in a crime.

Police were joined on the operation by both the Environment Agency and the RSPCA.

ROADS

Valentine's launch for city transport plans

A BLUEPRINT for sustainable transport in Canterbury is set to be unveiled next month - with its launch to be celebrated with a carnival around the city's Westgate Towers.

The decision to close the towers to traffic has sparked enormous debate in the city amid increasing congestion. The report, which launches on February 14, is penned by Dr Lynn Sloman, an expert in sustainable transport.

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RESTORATION

Pugin's 'ideal church' edges closer to salvation

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AN HISTORIC church designed by 19th century gothic architect Augustus Pugin for himself and his family has moved a step closer to raising the £1 million needed to secure its future.

St Augustine in Ramsgate had already received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help its plight, but a further £165,000 boost from HLF this week has raised hopes of reaching the magic million to pay for urgent structural repairs.

It comes as a welcome relief for the church, which two years ago faced closure despite its historical importance.

Pugin, who is hailed as one of the greatest British architects, designers and writers of the 19th century, lived in Ramsgate at The Grange and designed St Augustine as his own church. He is best known for his striking gothic designs for the Palace of Westminster, the hall which links the Houses of Parliament.

Father Marcus Holden said Pugin called St Augustine his "ideal church".

"He wasn't building it for a patron, so he wasn't restricted and designed it how he wanted it," he said. "He designed the Parliament building while he was designing this church.

"Pugin is buried at St Augustine."

Father Holden said he was delighted to have reached what he called stage three of a long fundraising process.

Church funds had diminished due to a drop in donations caused by the recession and a question mark hung over its future after the Benedictine monks who had occupied the adjacent abbey for 150 years relocated to Surrey in 2010.

"Two years ago the church was in danger of becoming derelict, of ceasing to exist," said Father Holden. "It's been an ongoing campaign; we didn't want to lose our church.

"Since it started our mass numbers have doubled, we have people coming here just to learn about the history.

"The Archbishop of Southwark officially made the church a shrine and a place of pilgrimage so we have been welcoming a lot of visitors over the past two years. It all helps."

Donations, grants and fundraising have helped with some of the repairs, and this latest grant will assist in a number of major works, including fixing stone work and windows.

St Augustine is one of six cash-strapped churches to have had their prayers answered this week with money awarded by HLF's Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme.

The money will pay for urgent structural repairs.

Head of HLF South East, Stuart McLeod, said: "Historic places of worship form prominent and much-loved landmarks in our villages, towns and cities across the south east.

"They are unique buildings that bring communities together for a variety of reasons from worship through to culture and leisure."

English Heritage planning and conservation director for the south east, Dr Andy Brown, added: "Listed places of worship make up an elemental part of the historic fabric of England.

"It is crucial they are cared for and repaired. Thanks to the joint work of the HLF and English Heritage these wonderful buildings, which mean so much to so many, will remain part of our story for years to come."

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND DONATES CASH FOR REPAIRS

Kent's six churches to receive Heritage Lottery Fund grants for urgent structural repairs
■ St Peter and St Paul, Shorne: £32,000 ■ All Saints, Graveney ■ All Saints, Ulcombe: £40,000 ■ St Mary the Virgin, High Halden: £69,000 ■ St Mary the Virgin, Minster: £60,000 ■ St Augustine, Ramsgate: £165,000 (pictured above).

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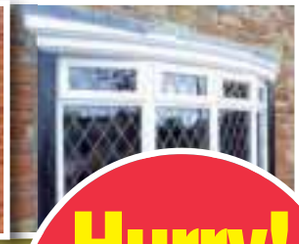

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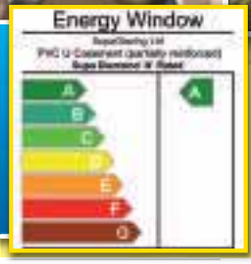

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APPEAL

Desperate plea for cash to help seriously ill tourist in Thailand

CRITICAL CONDITION: Gareth Harnett needs £2,320 a day for medical treatment after a having a heart attack on holiday without the right insurance

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FAMILY and friends of a "lovable, cheeky chappy" who suffered a massive heart attack in Thailand have launched a fund-raising appeal to help pay for life-saving treatment.

Gareth Harnett, from Ramsgate, was just days into a holiday in Phuket with friends when he collapsed and needed urgent medical treatment.

The 29-year-old has since come around from a coma, but remains in a critical condition on a life-support machine.

His cousin Polly Harnett, who lives in Maidstone, said he had become responsive, but still needed life-saving treatment.

However, Mr Harnett travelled without holiday-health insurance and the daily bill for treatment is £2,320.

His friend and fellow holidaymaker Patrick Dyett used £6,000 of his savings to pay the initial costs, but Mr Harnett is expected to remain in hospital for several weeks and the bills are mounting.

Family and friends have launched a desperate appeal for help, setting up a pledge website, urging people to donate and help bring him back to the UK safe and well.

Miss Harnett, 28, said: "He's out of the coma, but he's still on a life-support machine. Patrick used his savings to help pay and a pledge-page has been set up. His friends collected money at Tesco and there is an event at The Dolphin Inn in Broadstairs at 3pm this Sunday to raise money.

"It's amazing how much support people in Thanet have given. People moan about the place, but the minute something like this happens everyone pulls together.

"It's difficult being so far away, but the cost of flying out there is better spent on paying for his treatment. We're lucky knowing the two friends who are with him are the greatest two people to have by his side.

"We're waiting to hear what the specialists say about how long he has to be in hospital – you can't move someone who's on a life-support machine."

The labourer fell ill at the weekend and it was first thought he had suffered an asthma attack. He had in fact had a massive heart attack.

He was taken to a state hospital, but his friends Mr Dyett and Bobby Alamouti were shocked by the conditions.

"There were stray dogs and cockroaches, so he was taken to a private hospital which specialises in dealing with major trauma," said Miss Harnett.

Donations have reached more than £7,200, but friends and family are hoping to raise £35,000 to pay for treatment for around three weeks.

"Gareth is a lovable, cheeky chappy who always has a story to tell," said Miss Harnett.

"He is well known in Thanet and very popular."

The case has prompted insurers to highlight the importance of getting health cover when going abroad.

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said: "With travel insurers paying out nearly £5 million every week in medical bills alone, travel insurance could well turn out to be one of the most cost-effective purchases you ever make."

■ **Go to http://pledgie.com/campaigns/19116 to donate.**

BE SURE YOU TAKE COVER

Medical treatment abroad can command huge fees. Unlike in the UK, when as a taxpayer you contribute to the cost of the NHS, elsewhere you will be expected to pay for any treatment you receive.

According to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, many people assume credit-card accident cover, home insurance, private health care or their European Health Insurance Card will cover them. This is often not the case. It also reminds UK citizens travelling abroad that the British Embassy or High Commission will not pick up costs.

It is, therefore, always advised you take out a suitable travel-insurance policy to ensure you are covered for any eventuality.

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HEALTH

Lighting the fuse on renewed push to slash number of young smokers

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THIRTEEN per cent of Kent's 15-year-olds are smoking regularly – prompting a major new push to get them to stub out their potentially deadly habit.

Despite millions spent on graphic anti-smoking campaigns – and a rise in the legal smoking age from 16 to 18 – schoolchildren in the county are still ignoring the risks and lighting up.

And worryingly, a new report by Kent County Council claims 5,600 more young people will start smoking this year alone, putting their lives in serious danger and damaging their health.

The KCC report states smoking remains the biggest cause of premature death.

It is responsible for more loss of life than the rest of the top five killers combined, which includes obesity and alcohol.

Yet, it is estimated some 70 per cent of smokers want to give up but remain hooked.

In a bid to tackle the problem, County Hall chiefs are set to launch the Tobacco Control Programme.

By the end of 2015, the authority wants to hit government targets of getting the number of 15-year-olds smoking down to 12 per cent.

Director of public health at KCC, Meradin Peachey, said: "We have helped a lot of adults stop smoking, but we were finding young people are still starting. The statistics are shocking.

"Where there is smoking in the home there is a bigger chance of them starting.

"Peers make a big difference, and plain packaging will help too. Social media will also help us to make smoking unfriendly.

"We need to look at the ethics of the industry if young people are desensitised to the health aspects."

Cutting the number of young smokers will be done by raising awareness and education of tobacco issues in schools.

KCC is also developing youth advocacy for young people to assume control of the tobacco control agenda and develop a "youth voice".

This will be coordinated with a new Tobacco Control Board for Kent, which includes representatives from councils, stop smoking services, schools and youth services, Trading Standards, environmental health and police.

A major element will be to "denormalise" smoking.

The £655,000 annual cost will come from the public health ring-fenced budget.

Figures from a report called Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England in 2011, from the Information Centre for Health and Social Care, found the percentage of those aged 15 who smoked regularly in the UK dropped from a 1994 high of 26 per cent to 11 per cent in 2011.

Anti-smoking charity Ash says children of smoking parents are three times more likely to start.

Another report suggests some smoking children go on to alcohol and drug abuse and have a higher mortality rate.

See box to help you quit.

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- The Smokefree Helpline from the NHS is on 0800 0224 322.
- If you want to access a range of support options across the county, ranging from group support to one-to-ones, a good starting point can be found at www.smokefreekent.co.uk.
  Or call 0800 849 4444.
- The Kent Stop Smoking Service has a record number of quit clubs and drop-in clinics available throughout January and February for people who are ready to quit smoking and need some help.
  See the Kent Community Health NHS Trust website at bit.ly/ Xmpl3U.
  It includes a full list of towns running help sessions.
- Alternatively, speak to your GP or chemist about the range of nicotine replacement therapies, including patches, and other medications available over the counter and by prescription.

ACTION: The Tobacco Control Programme aims to reduce the number of young smokers

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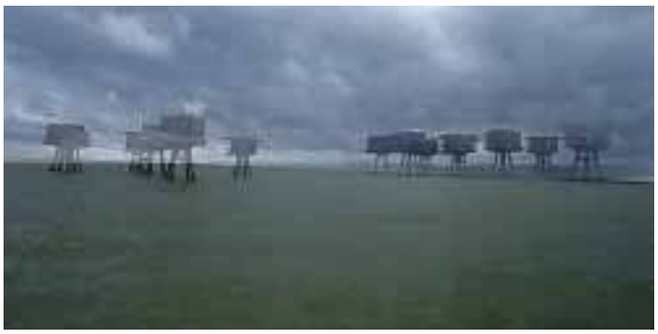

ART: Rosa Barba's show is a multi-platform film installation that takes in Manchester and Kent, including the Maunsell forts, far left

EXHIBITION

Film explores subconscious society from Margate to Manchester

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE Turner Contemporary begins 2013 with a new exhibition from celebrated Italian-German visual artist Rosa Barba.

Central to the exhibition is a new multi-platform film installation, Subconscious Society, which examines the "end of the industrial age in favour of an age of technology".

Filmed in Manchester and Kent, the new commission is inspired by the history of these places in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Manchester as the first industrial metropolis and Margate and the Kent coast catering for the related rise of a new leisure culture for the masses.

A simultaneous exhibition will take place in Manchester.

A spokesman for the gallery said: "The work depicts a 'society' trapped inside a deteriorating interior where the characters explore what happens when objects lose their functions and meanings, whilst being hidden from the crumbling, abandoned world outside: rusting boats, collapsing piers and roller-coasters, and deserted buildings rising from the sea."

Among the images captured are scenes of the Maunsell forts – used to report and attack German air-raids during the war but long since left abandoned several miles of the coast of Whitstable. They have subsequently become a popular landmark.

The artist said: "In my work I don't observe reality. I am reinterpreting it in a certain direction by making very personal decisions. I don't pose critical questions – I am trying to invent a utopia by showing political and social mechanisms set against technical mechanisms which are themselves fragile."

Barba's work will be presented alongside a number of perspective studies by Turner; they will be chosen by the artist.

Victoria Pomery, director of Turner Contemporary, said: "We are very excited to be working with Rosa Barba on this new commission. The series of little-known, wonderful perspective drawings by JMW Turner perfectly complement Rosa's new commission."

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HISTORY

Survivors recall the 'hideous death' that swept all before it

During the night of January 31, 1953, weather conditions conspired to deliver a flood that devasted Kent and would change the lives of many

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IT WAS exactly 60 years ago this week that a natural disaster occurred that cost the lives of hundreds, caused damage equating to billions of pounds today and reminded everyone of the terrible power of the sea.

The floods of 1953 live on in the memory of all of those who were there, who saw huge swathes of the north Kent coast submerged by what was described as a 'perfect storm' of sea and air conditions.

On the night of Saturday, January 31, a major storm surge, high tides and hurricane-force winds resulted in raging waters from the North Sea pummelling through inadequate sea defences along the east coast of Britain, washing away homes, roads and railways and causing the deaths of 307 people. In all, 24,000 properties were ruined and more than 32,000 people were evacuated. Damage in monetary terms is estimated at more than £5 billion in today's values.

East Anglia saw the worst of the destruction, but Kent did not escape. Large swathes of the coastline from Erith to Whitstable were flooded.

Remarkably, it is believed that just one Kent resident perished – a sluice-keeper from Belvedere whose body was never properly identified.

However, it changed the lives of many Kent people forever. Streets were under water, railway tracks wrecked, roads and farmland ruined and houses submerged.

Bronwen Sadler is secretary of the Kent History Federation and lectures on the disaster, having experienced it first-hand.

She was just 10 years old and living on Canvey Island, Essex, where 58 people lost their lives, when the waves hit on that fateful night.

She said: "As the sea burst through, people were drowned in their beds, trying to save others, or died from exposure and sodden clothing.

"One couple pushed their baby in its cot through a window into the water and it was found floating, like Moses. That child lived, but the parents didn't – they drowned and were found in each other's arms."

Just after midnight, waves smashed into the oil refinery on the Isle of Grain and a surge swept inland up the River Medway, which soon became awash with the bloated corpses of drowned cattle and sheep.

As the Joseph Wells fireworks factory went under water, huge explosions caused windows to be blasted out in nearby Dartford. Meanwhile at Ridham Docks, near Sittingbourne, cranes toppled and locomotives were buried under torrents of mud as ships foundered.

Colin Ash was 11 and living in West Minster, Sheppey, when the disaster hit.

He said: "We had no prior warning. Around midnight I remember my mum coming into my room as she'd heard all the ships in Sheerness dockyard sounding their sirens. The old air-raid siren was going off as well.

"The owner of the general stores and post office, a Mr Burnett, was out in his waders ringing a big bell up and down the road."

The following morning Mr Ash surveyed the damage caused by the waters that had come tumbling over the seawall.

"There was mud and water lying everywhere and lots of the houses had broken windows. There were no buses or trains as the rush of the waves had washed away the line, leaving it hanging between two and five feet in the air."

The disaster led to a vast improvement in sea defences and warning systems put into place. They are constantly under review to this day.

And, as Mrs Sadler remembers, everyone took part in the clean-up.

"Sixty years ago, people faced this with a stoicism foreign to today's society," she said. "The generations that had come through two world wars were amazingly calm and courageous in the face of a hideous death in total darkness."

DESTRUCTION: Whitstable residents row down the street; a man watches as the sea wall at Erith is breached

FERRY DEATHS FOREWARNING OF DISASTER

The first notification that something was wrong at sea occurred on the afternoon of January 31, when BBC radio announced the loss of the Stranraer-Larne car ferry MV Princess Victoria, with the loss of 133 lives.

Forecasters thought the high winds that caused the tragedy were heading north, towards Norway. But instead they changed direction and came surging down the North Sea, wrecking telephone lines, so few warnings were broadcast.

The low-lying Dutch coast received the major impact, with 1,800 people reported killed, while waters also raged inland through Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and north Kent.

Sea defences were in poor condition as repair work had been neglected because of the Second World War.

And once again air-raid sirens were heard – bringing warning of imminent danger to a population just starting to recover from wartime deprivation.

CRIME

Did you help attacked boy?

A GOOD Samaritan who went to the aid of a 15-year-old boy being attacked is urged to contact police to help them find the thugs.

The incident happened at around 10.45pm in Packers Lane, Ramsgate, last Sunday. The woman shouted at the men and assisted the boy after his attackers had fled. Police want to speak to her to help them with their enquiries.

INTERNET

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COMPETITION

WIN tickets to see Swan Lake

IF you love ballet, then this latest performance of Swan Lake is not to be missed.

The Russian State Ballet & Orchestra of Siberia will be appearing at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, and we have got five pairs of tickets to give away to readers.

Swan Lake, brought to life by Tchaikovsky's hauntingly beautiful music, is an immortal love story filled with emotion, magic and beauty.

Watch as Odile, the temptress in black tulle, seduces the prince by spinning with captivating precision to the purity of the swan queen Odette as she flutters with emotional intensity. The dual role of Odette/Odile is one of ballet's most unmissable technical challenges.

Five pairs of tickets to the performance on Thursday, February 21, at 7.30pm, are available in this competition. To win a pair, simply answer the question below.

Question: What is the name of the temptress who seduces the prince in Swan Lake?
A) Odile B) Odette C) Olave

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To enter, text KOS followed by Swan Lake and your answer, then your first name, surname, address and postcode, to 80058, eg KOS Swan Lake C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate.

The closing date for entries is Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final.

Tickets are for upper-circle seats; winning tickets cannot be claimed against tickets already purchased or exchanged for cash. Tickets are only available for the specified date and time. Only one pair of tickets per person.

Usual terms and conditions apply.

Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of Tuesday, February 12, 2013, your entry will not be valid but you still may be charged.

SMS services are provided by Velti DR Ltd, SE1 8ND; telephone 020 7633 5020.

Alternatively, enter by post to Swan Lake Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

VANDALISM: Illegible marks and graffiti tags have been sprayed on the walls and surroundings of Tonbridge Castle in yellow paint

CRIME

Graffiti sprayed on castle

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

POLICE are hunting yobs who sprayed graffiti on the walls of the 13th century Tonbridge Castle.

The letters THC and THF were clearly visible on a rubbish bin, a glass window of the Chamber Room and some information points.

The West Tower wall, by the castle gate, and the Curtain Stone wall next to the gate were also targeted with illegible marks.

In all cases, yellow paint had been used and officers have found a spray can nearby which is being examined for evidence.

PC Alex Campbell from Kent Police said: "Unfortunately, reports of vandalism in the area are quite common but usually the only items damaged are the bins and chairs in the area.

"On this occasion some of the castle walls have actually been sprayed. We are appealing for anyone who knows who may have been responsible to contact police. We also want members of the public to be on the lookout for suspicious activity in the area in future."

Tonbridge Castle, which is popular with visitors, dates back to 1273.

The borough council, which runs the site, quickly drafted in a company to remove the paint using specialist equipment.

Anyone with information can contact police by calling 101 and quoting YY/1578/13, or call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

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CRIME

Police defend dispersal zones amid claims bad behaviour is moved along instead of eradicated

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE county's police force has defended the use of dispersal zones to control troublemakers after critics slammed the practice, calling it a "crude, indiscriminate tool".

The zones are increasingly being deployed by police and local authorities in a bid to crack down on known anti-social behaviour hot-spots.

The dispersal zone allows officers to move groups of troublemakers on for 24 hours.

Most recently, it was used in Dartford to ease tension after months of anti-social behaviour by nuisance youths.

But civil liberties campaign group Big Brother Watch said it failed to actually deal with causes of crime or punish those responsible.

Studies have shown that, instead, the streets surrounding the zones bear the brunt as the yobs are moved on.

But Kent Police said it backed the system 100 per cent.

Last summer, one was used in the Twydall Green area of Rainham between June 1 and August 31.

DISPERSAL ZONES

- Dickens estate in Denton, Gravesend, until June 2013
- St Radigund's in Dover, until May 2013
- Grace Hill, Folkestone, until April 2013
- Albion Road, Cliftonville, Margate, three months until January 2013
- Luton ward of Medway, three months in 2012
- Basing Close, Maidstone, six months in 2011

The order gave council enforcement officers the power to disperse groups of two or more people and tell those who did not live in the area to leave and not return for up to 24 hours.

Those who breach a dispersal order can be arrested and handed a fine of up to £2,500 or sentenced to three months in custody.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "In this time, there was a drop in calls reporting anti-social behaviour."

In Dartford, the order runs from the end of January until the end of April in the Temple Hill area. Police say it is needed following an increase in bad behaviour sparking over 80 calls in just three months and a rise in theft and shoplifting.

Detective Inspector Paul Cooke from the community safety unit said: "This order allows us to deal effectively with this problem. We use these measures when there have been large numbers of problems reported and they have a good success rate in helping to tackle local issues.

"This dispersal area is just one tool that will help to ensure offenders and law abiding residents know this type of behaviour will not be tolerated."

Dartford Borough Council leader Jeremy Kite added: "These orders have proved to be a common-sense and effective way of dealing with the problem when used elsewhere."

A study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation examined in detail the effects of dispersal orders. It found evidence of a "considerable displacement effect" of trouble to other areas.

A Kent Police spokesman was unable to comment on whether crime has risen in neighbouring streets of dispersal zones, saying: "Something like that is extremely hard to quantify and we wouldn't assign blame to a rise, or fall, in crime."

Deputy director of Big Brother Watch, Emma Carr, called dispersal orders a "crude, indiscriminate tool".

"It fails to deal with the causes of crime or punish those responsible for anti-social behaviour," she said. "Like so many politically-inspired schemes, they undermine police discretion and at best push disorder onto a different nearby area.

"The fundamental issue is that those responsible for crime and anti-social behaviour seem to avoid punishment, so new and more bizarre measures are introduced to appease rightly angry residents.

"Criminalising every young person in these areas, simply for visiting a certain part of a town, is an unwarranted and disproportionate intrusion onto the civil liberties of thousands of law abiding young people."

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POLICING

Crime scene investigation hasn't always

The shocking acts of Jack the Ripper and the brilliance of fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes have long encouraged our fascination with crime-fighting of days gone by, and now TV's Ripper Street is the latest offering to tap into our 21st-century fascination with 19th-century crime. But what was it really like to police Victorian society? **Nick Ames** dons deerstalker and trenchcoat to investigate.

STEPPING into the Kent Police Museum at Chatham Historic Dockyard, the visitor is transported to a different time, coming face to face with clues that help unravel our county's crime-fighting past.

As well as accounts of crime and punishment it has a collection of early photographs from when the county force was established in 1857.

All officers had to be at least 5ft 9in tall, be able to read and write and aged below 40.

Mostly drawn from the farm-labouring classes, the first Kent policemen were issued with a uniform costing £4 16s (shillings) 2d (pence), handcuffs costing 4s and a lantern and truncheon valued at 5s each.

On April 1, 1857, ex-Army man Captain John Hay Ruxton took charge of the new county force: 222 officers were to police 334,115 people from the headquarters at Wrens Cross in Maidstone.

"The county force was responsible for policing areas which did not have an existing town or borough force," said curator Anna Derham.

"Officers carried an object called a tipstaff, which was a symbol of their authority. It was a tube which could be unscrewed so a Bill of Warrant, which demonstrated the officer's authority, could be shown. This may be the origins of the term Old Bill."

Officers patrolled on foot and were later issued with a truncheon, used for defensive purposes. A

PUNISHMENT

- Richard Hudson, imprisoned for six months with hard labour for being an "incorrigible rogue"
- **Mary Knight, a bigamist, received three months in jail**
- Horse thief John Greenstreet transported to the colonies (usually Australia)
- **Highwayman Thomas Prior and arsonist James Joy both hanged**
- John Any Bird Bell was just 14 when he was left swinging at the end of a rope for killing Richard Taylor, one year his junior, in an attempt to steal nine shillings

SUNDAY NIGHT DRAMA: The BBC's Ripper Street is set six months after Jack the Ripper's attacks had stopped. Reviewers have been affectionately calling the popular show CSI: Whitechapel.

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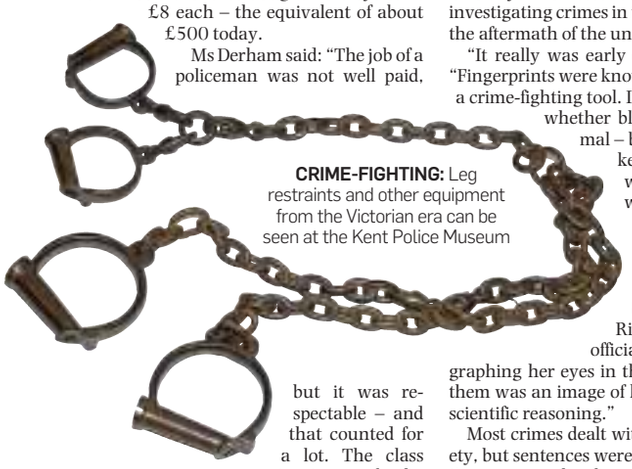
been so elementary for our police force

HISTORY: The earliest known photograph of Kent's first police force; officers had to meet strict height and age restrictions to be eligible for the role

rattle and later a whistle were their methods of attracting attention or calling for help.

And in 1890 the force bought 20 bicycles at £8 each – the equivalent of about £500 today.

Ms Derham said: "The job of a policeman was not well paid, but it was respectable – and that counted for a lot. The class structure of the time meant that was very important."



CRIME-FIGHTING: Leg restraints and other equipment from the Victorian era can be seen at the Kent Police Museum

Vagrancy, sheep-rustling and rural crimes were the main offences Kent officers were called on to deal with, although garrison towns such as Dover, Chatham and Gillingham saw huge numbers of prostitutes.

"Sometimes the police would just wait at the station and as the women got off put them on the train back to London," said Ms Derham.

The Victorian era also saw the beginning of the art of detection – a vital part of BBC One drama Ripper Street, which stars Matthew Macfadyen as Detective Inspector Edmund Reid investigating crimes in the East End of London in the aftermath of the unsolved Ripper murders.

"It really was early days," said Ms Derham. "Fingerprints were known about but not used as a crime-fighting tool. It was possible to discover whether blood was human or animal – but that was it – and broken glass would show from which direction a window was smashed.

"The time may have seen the birth of forensics, but officers investigating the death of Mary Jane Kelly, the last Ripper victim [according to official records] were photographing her eyes in the belief that reflected in them was an image of her killer. So it wasn't all scientific reasoning."

Most crimes dealt with were of the petty variety, but sentences were harsh and officers sometimes unpopular for enforcing laws that were seen to protect the rich at the expense of the working class.

Israel May was the first Kent policeman to be killed in the execution of his duty.

Described as a "civil, quiet and most temperate officer", he looked after the villages of Snodland and Burham but was battered to death with his own truncheon by a man named Thomas Atkins, whom he had tried to waken from a drunken stupor. Atkins served 20 years in prison for manslaughter, which is perhaps surprising for a century that saw 46 people hanged at Maidstone Prison.

The museum, which reopens in the spring, contains records of offences both serious and trivial. For a selection, see the box on the left.

Ms Derham said: "We all like to hold our hands up in horror at wickedness, and the Victorian period is one of the first where crime was detailed – and also sensationalised by newspapers. Maybe that is one of the reasons the subject still has such a fascination for so many people."

HARSH CONDITIONS

A letter in the museum from an inmate of Canterbury Prison called H Mason reveals the awful conditions faced by prisoners:

I endured 10 years of absolute Barbarism at Chatham. There I underwent 300 days Bread & Water. 1 year I was fast in irons riveted to my legs. Twice I was sentenced by the Director John Wakeford to Twenty-Eight days Bread & Water.

Once the same man sentenced me to 36 lashes for swearing at the Governor.

Two years I lay sick – And for about 7 years I slaved with spade, pick & barrow, and all for what?

Stealing two watches. I did every minute of the ten years, & I was discharged in the depth of a bitter cold winter from a sick bed with ten shillings to commence the world with. The men used to run & put their legs on the railway line for the Engine to pass over & cut them off.

Chopping off arms and maiming, suicides and Brutal assaults were daily occurrences. & this was the state of things nearly to the end of my term.

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POLITICS

Tories snipe at one another amid fear of grassroot revolt

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE leader of Kent County Council has added his name to a letter sent to Prime Minister David Cameron demanding his Government stops attacking local authorities.

Conservative Paul Carter joined other signatories on the letter opposing the near constant barrage of moans from Whitehall. And he warns if it continues, the Tories could see grassroots support eroded.

With local elections due this May, it is something many elected figures will be desperate to avoid.

The letter speaks about the "nature and tone of constant criticisms" aimed at the councils, battling to cope with repeated cuts to their grants.

Now several counties, including Kent, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Durham county councils, all Tory-led, are hitting back. In all, 31 senior councillors, mostly council leaders, signed the document.

The letter wants a halt to what it calls "patronising language" attacking those "who work extraordinarily long hours for our communities".

ENOUGH: Paul Carter signed a letter calling for an end to criticism and 'personal attacks' against local government

The four-page document was leaked this week to the Daily Telegraph newspaper. Part of it reads: "It is important that you understand how disappointed and even angry local activists are and how many might not be there when we need them as electoral foot soldiers."

Eric Pickles, the local government secretary, and Grant Shapps, the Conservative chairman, have recently been critical, particularly with authorities which plan to go against ministers and increase council tax.

The letter reads: "We believe it is essential to bring to your attention our concerns regarding some policy affecting local government, the rhetoric that accompanies it and the effect it is having on our people.

"Importantly, it is not only the substance of such policy but also the nature and tone of constant criticisms of their work by Conservative ministers that is most worrying."

It suggests "genuine feedback" is appreciated, but not when it becomes "ill-informed and anecdote-based general criticism and sometimes highly inaccurate personal attacks".

Cllr Carter said he regretted the letter was leaked and would have preferred it to have gone directly to Mr Pickles, adding: "We wanted to express concern about the attacks made by some of our friends in Whitehall."

He called the criticisms "friendly fire" and demanded they stop, pointing out the annual budget cuts of some 30 per cent mean the Kent tank is now running on "vapours".

Cllr Carter added: "We are all on the same side. We have taken more than our fair share of funding cuts.

"We are not moaning, but we feel we have done that in very creative ways to maintain good frontline services in the face of rising demand and prices. We should be given credit for responding this way."

ENTERTAINMENT

Drama of the People

Legendary playwright Alan Bennett will take his new play, People, to the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury later this year.

The venue is just one of a handful nationally to welcome the National Theatre production.

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "We are delighted to host the latest work by the country's leading playwright. This is a real coup for us."

The story is set around Dorothy, an impoverished aristocrat owner of a crumbling stately home, who is faced with the choice of auctioning off the house, letting the National Trust open it to visitors, or selling it to a shady consortium. Her short-term solution is to allow the house to be used for a porn film.

The Canterbury shows will run between October 22 to 26.

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Rovinj is the jewel in the crown of Croatia's Istrian peninsula and one of the last of the true Mediterranean fishing ports where fishermen land their catches daily.

Rovinj

Mali Losinj

Losinj Island is an undiscovered holiday delight combining beach culture and mountains with pine forests and floral landscapes.

In Treviso there is an option to stay a 2nd night with a visit to Venice including water-taxi transfers and guided walking tour.

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- 1 night half-board in Treviso
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Budapest

MS Serenity

The lounge

Dirty Dancing

with Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

£109pp

Quote DD11-KOS

Friday 8 November, 2013

Join us for a fabulous festive party at Pontins Pakefield. Enjoy the classic sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons with top tribute band Lets Hang On, a movie screening of Dirty Dancing and much more. Our private Christmas party break - for over 40s only - includes a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment. Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontins famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort, Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS £1.50p Bar

£175pp

Quote MR11-KOS

Friday 22 November, 2013

Join us for a Christmas Party full of fun and frolics, entertainment galore and cut-price drinks 'til midnight every day.

Enjoy the super sounds of the Bee Gees, with a tribute to Staying Alive, a Grease Tribute Show and a 70s-style Disco Party. Bring your 70s/Grease fancy dress and add to the party atmosphere.

The GN Team and the Mill Rythe Entertainments Team will be on hand to ensure a good time is had by all. Book now and take advantage of our low £10pp deposit offer.

INCLUDED: £1.50 drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Entertainment programme as described • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available

Mamma Mia Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Warner Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

£219pp

Quote NO11-KOS

Friday 29 November, 2013

Our annual Norton Grange Christmas party is all set. There'll be the familiar mix of fun and festivities, a free bar 'til midnight every day, great food and entertainment. This year we're adding the super sounds of Mamma Mia - Abba's classic soundtrack for all seasons. As well as the usual line-up of cabaret-style entertainment you will enjoy an Abba tribute band playing live and a screening of the Mamma Mia movie.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Entertainment programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • Free car ferry crossing worth £45

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Women Seeking

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Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

FEMALE early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could it be you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

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45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg, min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See t/cs below

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long-term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non-drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, night's in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 49, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, likes most things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401361**

GENT 49, romantic, caring, reliable, fun, seeks nice lady friend with same attributes, who has also been badly let down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401353**

TIM own car/flat, seeks N/S lady 60-70's for holidays, companionship etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401351**

ALAN from Kent, looking for Miss Right to fall in love again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401329**

BUILDER 43, tall, good-looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401309**

SINGLE solvent 60yr old male, seeks female companion for days out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401281**

SEAMUS 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279**

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245**

LOVING caring Ashford male, 46, likes outdoors, country pubs, cosy nights in, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401233**

BLACK male, 50, 6ft, down to earth, easygoing, seeks female, 38-55 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401135**

PAUL 52, businessman, own home, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401127**

DENNIS 64, retired, solvent, 6ft 4ins, 16st, widower, seeks friendly, attractive female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401095**

STEVE 64, young at heart, ex-marine, likes meals out, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401063**

MARGATE gent 70's, easygoing, tactile, seeking company of lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400995**

PHIL 61, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, football, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400519**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400403**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good-natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

SALVATORE 68, widow, looking for female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399613**

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

JAMIE tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**

DAVID 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**

BUILDER 43, tall, good-looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male, any age for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401915**

BI male, seeking easygoing bi male/CD, 18-55 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401891**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

ALAN gay guy, sensitive, likes music, art, seeks similar for friendship, holidays and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401569**

ANDREW bi male, 59, N/S, seeks male of any age up to 75 for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394228**

Friendship

STRAIGHT lady 47, N/S, new to Gravesend area, seeking friends, likes most things with varied interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401285**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND ARCHT followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888** (T&C's below)

NATALIA, naughty but nice! Chat to me about anything you wish. **Text ARCHT 205507 to 66888**

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OPINION

We must make Dilnot happen

Graham Gibbens explains what action is being taken to reduce the stress people face when paying for adult social care in their old age

DESPITE saving and planning throughout their lives, too many people are being robbed of the chance to pass something on to their loved ones by an outdated system that triggers catastrophic bills for care.

At the very point when they become more physically vulnerable than ever, they also become financially vulnerable – forced to lose their independence and sell their homes.

This flawed system leaves families in fear and misery and has been allowed to linger too long. At KCC, we are determined that it should change for the benefit of all who want something to leave behind.

That determination has led KCC to join forces with the leaders of Hampshire and Buckinghamshire county councils and call on the government to take action now over the future of funding for adult social care.

Together, we believe that MPs should discuss Andrew

Dilnot's proposed solution as soon as possible, rather than see it left on some dusty shelf in the Chancellor's cupboard.

Hand in hand with this approach, we are driving forward changes to the way health and social care work together in Kent – helping people to stay living at home with the best possible support.

It has been a frustrating 18 months since the Dilnot Commission report was published in 2011.

A lack of action by central government has left us without the report's recommended £35,000 cap on contributions to care costs. The time has come to ensure we put that cap in place by 2015.

In Kent, we have launched a Downing Street petition to spearhead a campaign and make this cap a reality. And we are also calling for other local authorities to help provide the 100,000 signatures that are needed to trigger a parliamentary debate.

Right across the country, local government is trying to cope with ever-increasing calls on a social care system that was never designed to cope with the level of demand we are now experiencing. And if the predictions are even halfway accurate, it's going to get even tougher.

The system is quite simply no longer up to the job. Age UK has said it is "not fit for purpose". This crisis needs a solution before it overwhelms everything else local government is trying to do.

Dilnot's proposal is a vital part of this solution and its author said – almost six months ago now – that reform is urgent

Dilnot's proposal is a vital part of the solution and that reform is urgent

and people "continue to face fear and uncertainty".

On top of this, providing a cap on contributions would enable the insurance industry to play a part in helping people prepare for the costs they might face in future.

I absolutely believe that doing this is affordable if the government is prepared to reprioritise its expenditure.

It is vital that the coalition government steps up to the plate on this. We just don't have the time to sit around talking about this for another five years.

A solution has been proposed and is ready to be turned into reality. It's now the time for us all to come together to make it happen. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/dilnot2015 and click on 'sign the petition'.

■ **Graham Gibbens is cabinet member for adult social care and public health at Kent County Council.**

KOS COMMENT

HS2 debate echoes our own rail transformation

WATCHING the TV news reports this week of worried house owners and concerned MPs as the Government put a little meat on the bones of its latest hugely ambitious rail plan, HS2, we can be perhaps forgiven for feeling like we've been here before.

Anyone who remembers when plans to build HS1 were first unveiled will remember the countryside changing forever, the pubs and houses being bought up and then knocked down, and the constant chorus of 'short term pain for long term gain'.

The question is, whether the many gains were ever enough for all the pains. And it continues to divide the county today. HS1 changed Kent – let's hope HS2 will benefit it further.

Keep festival spirit alive

THE county has found itself a strong contender on the music festival map in recent years, with household names performing at several events.

So let's hope organisers of the Hop Farm Festival are right and the event survives despite its recent financial challenges. We may not see its like again.

Pebbles at St Margaret's Bay by Kevin Mudge-Wood

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PCC is just cutting costs

IN answer to your article regarding the increase of PCSOs instead of increasing the number of police constables, it seems as though the Police and Crime Commissioner is to follow the Government's idea of cutting costs.

It is no good having people on the street representing the police force if they cannot do the full job.

I thought PCC Ann Barnes would have given more thought to what she intends to put forward as she worked at police headquarters.

WA Collier, West Malling

Not clever, Mackinlay!

I hold no brief for Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes, but her proposals for the staffing of Kent Police seem to be quite sensible in all the circumstances.

The criticisms of her plans from the defeated Conservative candidate Craig Mackinlay come across as ill-informed political point-scoring.

Not only that, they are politically inept since all they do is draw attention to his own party's controversial cuts agenda. Not clever!

The comments from the Kent Police Federation are much more sensible – "we have to be realistic".

I suggest that the Conservatives find a better spokesman in future and that Cllr Mackinlay gives up on his policing ambitions and concentrates on his Medway Council duties – where I hope, for his electorate's sake, that he does a better job.

Paul Twyman, Birchington

Gills trio for hall of fame

RON Hillyard was an excellent goalkeeper for Gillingham – but I have to disagree with your choice of him for the team's all-time number one (Gills team of the century, sport). That, for me, has to be Johnny Simpson.

Also from that era must be included Brian Yeo and Dick Tydeman.

It may be nostalgia, but those three for me deserve to go in the Gillingham hall of fame.

S Osgood, Chatham

My Gillingham dream team

FOR what it's worth, here is my selection of what I think would be a formidable Gillingham team:

John Simpson, Roy Proverbs, Dennis Hunt, Steve Bruce, Dave Shipperly, Alec Farrel (captain), Errol Crossan, Paddy Sowden, Ernie Morgan, John Meredith and Brian Yeo.

H Morgan, Gillingham

Gay marriage is unnatural

I WAS sad to read the letter in last week's paper entitled Come out for marriage, in which the writer John Worrow of Birchington attacked Canterbury MP Julian Brazier.

This was unnecessary and most unfair. I know Mr Brazier to be a good, honest, genuine man with traditional values. I praise him for this position.

We live in a topsy-turvy world when people want to make what is wrong right and we have become totally preoccupied with the rights of minorities; the majority feel neglected.

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman and anything else is an unnatural shame.

I congratulate an MP for standing up for what is right, natural and, above all, common sense.

I feel so sorry for any child brought up with two same-sex parents. How confusing and unnatural for a child to be in such a home.

I am not suggesting we again criticise homosexual conduct, and people should have an opportunity to have a contract in a stable, legal relationship and safeguard property rights *etc*.

To suggest same-sex marriage is equal to normal marriage is a nonsense. Often animals make better parents than we humans do.

You don't see an elephant with a lion or two same-sex animals together! They follow nature.

We have become a very intolerant country, with a small minority who are dictating what is right and wrong to us.

By all means live and let live, but as an individual I am fed up with hearing about the rights of minorities.

We cannot and should not defy what is good and natural. Gay marriage is a nonsense and is a contradiction in terms. God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

Graham Wanstall, Dover

Europe is good for countryside

AS the Green Party's worker at the No Campaign against the Euro during 2003, I was clear that the Euro had the potential to damage European cooperation. And so it has proved.

However, David Cameron's creation of uncertainty by promising a referendum in 2017 can only serve to reduce foreign and domestic investment in Kent and the rest of the UK.

Even more seriously, the powers Mr Cameron wants returned to the UK include our very limited areas of environmental and social protection.

Returning powers over the environment would make it easier for the Coalition to implement planning reforms that would allow more destruction of natural habitats by development.

Given the exceptional variety of habitats in Kent and Medway, it is not surprising that people in every part of our county have campaigned repeatedly to protect our land against road-building, warehousing and loss of open space and also against hydraulic fracking.

Kent and Medway also need to play a part in increasing UK forests and productive agricultural land, as part of building a sustainable economy.

You cannot do this if, by leaving the EU, you abolish habitat protection and hand land over to those who would destroy it in the name of development.

Of course the EU needs reforms, but, as Green Party leader Natalie Bennett has indicated, our best interests lie in remaining within a reformed EU, not pretending we will be better off outside it.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

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KENT REMEMBERED

THE EARLY DAYS: Béla de Csilléry conducts the newly-founded Kent County Youth Orchestra at an event in Tunbridge Wells in 1963; it is now hoped to gather together many of those original musicians

Orchestra celebrates 50 years of nurturing young musical talent

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FIFTY years ago this summer, Kent County Youth Orchestra played for the first time to the public in what was its inaugural concert.

Decades later and the acclaimed orchestra is still performing to music-lovers and giving talented youngsters the chance to showcase their skills.

Made up of musicians aged 13-21, the orchestra run by Kent Music boasts 100 players and is celebrated both at home and abroad.

It meets three times a year on five-day residential courses during school holidays; they are always followed by a public concert.

In celebration of the last 50 years, KCYO is hoping to track down musicians who took part in its inaugural performance at the former County Grammar School For Girls in Tunbridge Wells on August 16, 1963.

Geoff Dixon, Kent Music's general manager for county groups, said the orchestra would be celebrating at its annual concerts and hoped to invite former musicians as special guests.

"For 50 years the KCYO, generously funded and supported by Kent County Council, has provided outstanding training and quality musical experiences for the region's best young instrumentalists and gained a reputation as one of the best youth orchestras in the country," he said.

"During the forthcoming season we will be celebrating the orchestra's 50th anniversary and will continue with our long tradition of rehearsal residencies and fully-rounded symphonic concerts.

> **Kent County Youth Orchestra is 'all about the symphony' and the symphony will continue to be at the heart of each course and concert**
>
> GEOFF DIXON, GENERAL MANAGER

"KCYO is 'all about the symphony' and the symphony will continue to be at the heart of each course and concert."

The conductor in the inaugural performance was Béla de Csilléry and the feature soloist was trumpeter Barry Kerry.

They began with the overture Oberon by Weber, followed by A Somerset Rhapsody by Holst and Trumpet Concerto in E flat by Haydn.

After the interval the orchestra performed Symphony No. 2 in C minor by Tchaikovsky.

The chief executive of Kent Music, Peter Bolton, said: "One of the ways we will be celebrating KCYO's anniversary will be by revisiting the programme played at that first concert at a special performance at Mote Hall, Maidstone, on Saturday, April 6.

"We would love to get in touch with the musicians who played at that first KCYO concert and invite them along to be our special guests at these 50th-anniversary celebrations."

He said Kent Music would be delighted to hear from anyone who had played over the past 50 years, particularly if they had gone on to make a career in music.

"It will be fascinating to hear people's stories of their time with the KCYO and of some of the great concert venues and tours that our members have experienced over the years," he said.

A concert is also being held on Saturday, September 7, at Mote Hall, paying tribute to the last 50 years of KCYO.

Former members can share their memories and pictures by emailing gdixon@kent-music.com or phoning Geoff Dixon on 01622 358402.

Walking the plank to a better castle experience

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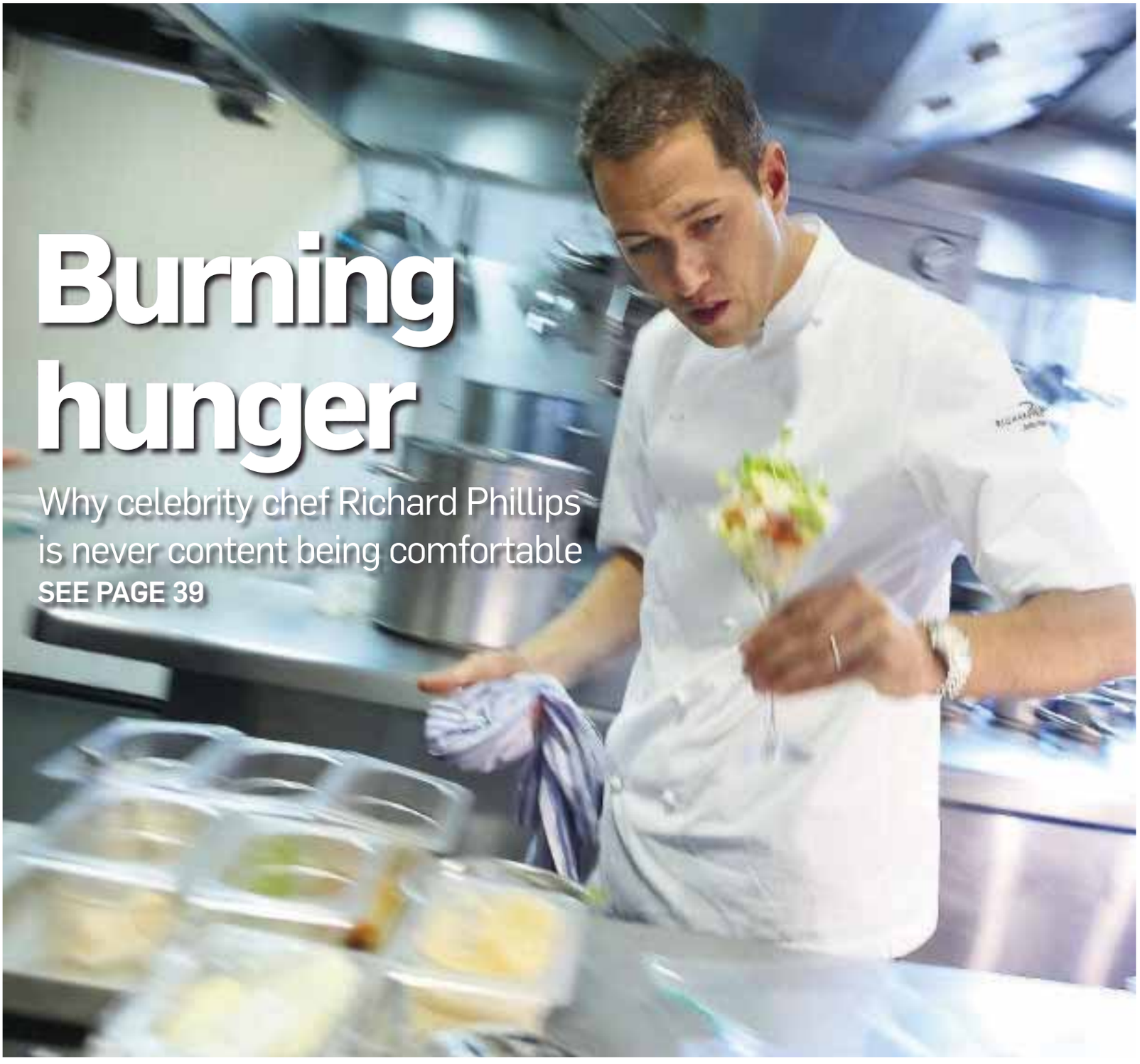
THE MA OF SKA

Pauline Black returns with a select bunch

SEE PAGE 44

Kent Weekend



Burning hunger

Why celebrity chef Richard Phillips is never content being comfortable

SEE PAGE 39

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THE INTERVIEW

Richard Phillips

Star man

Celebrity chef's passion still burns bright, he tells **Joe Bill**

AFTER news that Thackeray's had regained its Michelin-star rating in the 2013 shake-up of the UK culinary bible, it was pretty obvious that chef patron Richard Phillips was in for a busy year.

The Tunbridge Wells restaurant took back its star after a seven-year gap, making it one of only four in Kent currently boasting the award.

With three other premises in the county – The Windmill at Hollingbourne, The Hengist at Maidstone and The Pearson's Arms in Whitstable – celebrity chef Phillips certainly has a busy schedule, lengthened by two TV shows and a book.

The former Rainham Howard School pupil said: "It never stops. That's just the industry. I've been in it for 25 years and that's a long time. I want to be sure that I wake up in the morning and want to go to work, and what makes me want to go in is the need to develop something different or to make customers happy. That's very important to me."

The Hollingbourne resident, who learnt his trade under the likes of Marco Pierre White at The Criterion restaurant as well as the Roux brothers at the famous Le Gavaroche, hasn't ruled out the idea of becoming Kent's first two-Michelin-star venue either.

"Never say never. I will always be striving for more – never sit back and be comfortable with what you have. I think it's important to keep pushing forward with the restaurants. I always want to offer the customers something different.

"To keep them coming back, to keep them excited. I want them to visit again and say 'Oh, that's different and that's new'. Realising it is moving forward and I don't believe that it just comes down to food. It's the wine list, the training, where people are positioned, different cheeses you might be serving, out there sourcing different ingredients.

"I have never been one to cook for guide books. I cook for my customers. If you have a busy restaurant you're doing something right. So could we get two stars? I think we could. There are talented individuals around me, so one day, who knows?

"Right now it's hats off to the team at Thackeray's for their hard work, passion and drive in getting the star back. And I will let them enjoy that for the time being.

"But at the same time they have got to be on their A game – they have to deliver because the expectations rise somewhat when you get that star. It can be taken away as easily as it can come and that is a horrible feeling."

Phillips has come a long way since his days studying catering at Thanet College – a place he now works with to help young chefs – as he enters 2013 with a new TV show and a prime-time slot on BBC One just weeks away.

Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is will see two celebrity chefs compete to make the most profit from their day's work, but there are a few twists to make things interesting.

"The two celebrity chefs meet in the morning and get a challenge. You have to go into a kitchen you have never worked in before, take it over and are given a budget of what you can spend on produce. You're told the amount of covers you're going to be feeding and then you get into the kitchen and meet your team."

The chefs both create an anonymous menu including a starter, main course and dessert, and diners choose which dishes they want.

"At the end of it, the winner is whoever has sold the most dishes and made the most profit. So if you have bought sensibly and sold at a price that makes a good profit, you win the day.

"It's a good show and gives viewers a look behind the scenes at what chefs do. Buying, haggling over food and creating menus."

And the rivalry to be the king of the kitchen means there is often no love lost between Phillips and some of his new team-members.

"There are some hairy moments", he said, laughing. "You're up against time restraints and given chefs you've never worked with before, so you don't know their capabilities.

"And if they muck something up, you have to buy it again – costing more money.

"I can't tell you too much yet, but let's say that there are some very talented chefs on the show and I had to have my wits about me."

Phillips will also take part in a Channel Four show later this year and finally release his long-awaited recipe book.

"It's been a long time in the making. It's got recipes, secrets and tips from all my years of cooking. Hopefully, people can take my ideas and tips and turn them into a great dinner party, or there's just good home-cooking, which you can execute well and within a budget."

Phillips is known for his championing of his home county and its products, being a member of the board at Produced in Kent and patron for the Kent Young Chef competition.

He believes the county is showing the signs of breaking free from the economic downturn and may well look to expand his businesses.

"No matter what field you're in, if you're doing something well and that is value for money with people getting quality products, then they still go out and spend their money.

"Opportunities where I can expand my business? If the quality is something that I want to associate my name with, in a great location in Kent, and it's not going to be to the detriment of any of my current business, then absolutely.

"I'm sure there's something on the horizon."

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A sparkling new star takes its place in culinary galaxy

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

Whitstable. The town that we are told has redefined the perception of the north Kent coast. Not the likes of Sittingbourne or Gillingham maybe, which you fear might never find a place in people's hearts, but certainly the string of resorts that have experienced, at best, varying fortunes in recent decades.

Along with the natty little shops selling anything from handmade jewellery to bespoke flower arrangements, food is of course a big part of the 'New Whitstable' experience.

Accordingly, the town's restaurant offer has exploded. There is a fantastic choice of venue and, while seafood is (rightly) the dominant force, there is a rich assemblage of styles.

Despite some reservations about the whole transformation process, essentially, I think, it is a good thing. With a greedy glance up the road to the capital, the prices at some places are too high, but at least local people have the chance to eat at a greater range of good restaurants, even if they have to save the pennies for a while.

All of which begs the question: what of the humble curry house? Where does that prosaic yet glorious institution fit among the hustle and bustle of the more highfalutin establishments?

Happily, the Indian restaurant is alive and

well in Whitstable – thriving indeed, if the impressive number of them is anything to go by.

One of them, Krishna, has developed an enviable reputation beyond the town boundaries, while others of course have their champions, but a relative newcomer, the Star of Bengal, has raised pulses and elicited a sparkling shower of praise on the internet.

And so the Star of Bengal it was. A late night in the office and the need for a spirit-lifting meal turned a wistful longing into a necessity.

The Oxford Street location is perfect in ensuring a healthy passing trade, even if the building itself is underwhelming, an impression exacerbated by the fact that the restaurant itself was cold. Sure, the waiter turned on the radiator by my table, but I took a long time to warm up.

A restaurant, like a pub, should always be warm and inviting, not least when snow is lying on the ground outside and temperatures are hovering around zero.

Otherwise, the Star of Bengal was a treat. Friendly staff and excellent food... a simple recipe that marked it as a place that will hold its own in this culinary cornucopia of a town.

From the spiced papadoms to the starter basket of lamb and chicken tikka and onion bhajis (for two people but, like I said, I was hungry) to the main – I chose the North Indian Special, a medium-hot chicken dish spiced to perfection – to the sides of saag aloo and mushroom bhaji, there was the hallmark of quality.

The vegetables were crisp and fresh and the meat tender, while the texture and flavour of the sauces betrayed the presence of excellence in the kitchen. Whitstable has a new star.

Dave Mairs

Star of Bengal
40 Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DG
(telephone 01227 276303)

Wyatt and Jones bring British to Broadstairs

THE already-booming Thanet dining scene will get another boost early in 2013 with the opening of a new restaurant.

Some intrigue remains behind the new Wyatt and Jones restaurant to open in Broadstairs in the coming months, with the website of the eatery giving very little away.

It is sure to tap into the trend of buying and sourcing ingredients locally, describing itself as a "British restaurant".

The family-owned venue in Harbour Street will be open for traditional breakfasts, lunches, evening meals and classic Sunday roasts.

The restaurant is advertising now on Twitter for chefs to join the team.

Sportsman hailed in gastropub awards

THE Sportsman at Seasalter, one of Kent's most highly-regarded restaurants, came close to another title this week, being voted into second place in a list of the top 50 UK gastropubs.

The competition, run by trade magazine The Publican's Morning Advertiser, saw more than 500 voters take part, including celebrity chefs, journalists and travel writers.

The Michelin-starred restaurant was the only Kent eatery to make the list, losing out only to the famous two-Michelin-star Hand and Flowers in Buckinghamshire.

The Sportsman also finished sixth in the National Restaurant Awards for 2012.

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To be included on this page, please email features@kosmedia.co.uk

Drawbridge gets a welcome lift

THE oldest working drawbridge in Britain, at Hever Castle, has had a 2013 facelift.

A static support structure in the castle moat has been replaced more than 100 years after its first incarnation.

The famous drawbridge was installed by American multi-millionaire William Waldorf Astor just three years after he bought the castle in 1903.

The medieval defensive castle, which was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, was built in 1270, with the original drawbridge and moat forming a barrier to entry when raised.

The drawbridge had been replaced by a stone bridge in the early 18th century, when the castle was owned by the Waldergrave family, but was restored to the orginal style once William Astor took charge of the site.

Work was carried out by oak construction company Scott Partnership, which restored the lifting part of the wooden drawbridge six years ago. The project involved partially draining the inner moat.

Hever Castle welcomes some 250,000 visitors a year, many of whom cross the drawbridge to enter the castle.

See www.hevercastle.co.uk for details.

Sweet squeeze of success as juice bar makes top 10

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AN independent juice bar in Whitstable has stormed into the top 10 for a national award looking at small businesses.

The boutique venue, known as 63 Harbour Street, was placed among the best UK businesses to have started in the past two years by The Guardian's small business network start-up awards.

The competition ran the rule over more than 130 entries nationwide.

Owner Steve Jones said: "It's fantastic recognition in the lead-up to our second birthday and it completes a great start to the year."

The juice bar was also placed in the top 10 for the Taste of Kent local food retailer of the year award in a public vote.

"We thought that was a great result for our second year of trading. We're very small and still fairly new, so we were truly thrilled. The local food retailer award is about supporting local producers and suppliers."

NATIONAL RECOGNITION: 63 Harbour Street in Whitstable

63 Harbour Street works with 13 independent businesses across Kent.

Steve said: "Several of our suppliers were nominated in Taste of Kent's artisan food producer of the year category, with Whitstable's Waltshaws', who make muffins and brownies for us, and The Kentish Chocolate Company also getting Top 10 places.

"Little Stour Orchard, who supply our apples and bottled apple juice, was nominated for best Kent juice producer.

"So we're selling products that are loved locally, too."

The winners of the Taste of Kent awards will be announced on Friday, March 8.

Write to Whitstable-juices@63harbourstreet.co.uk to find out more about the bar.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Friday and Saturday, February 15-16
Box office: 01892 530613
Website: www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
Harry Hill: Back with his first live show for years, award-winning TV Burp presenter and stand-up Harry Hill brings Sausage Time to his home county. Tickets £30.

Theatre Royal Margate
Friday to Sunday, March 1-3
Box office: 01843 292795
Website: www.theatreroyalmargate.com
Party To Murder: Local director Gordon Clarkson brings the 1930s-style comedy murder mystery to the seaside stage... but can you guess who is behind the wicked act? Tickets £10.

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, February 21
Box office: 01322 220000
Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
Swan Lake: The classic ballet is brought to life by Tchaikovsky's haunting and unforgettable score and a talented team from the Russian State Ballet of Siberia. Tickets £25.50-£37.50.

Astor Community Theatre, Deal
Thursday, February 7
Box office: 01304 370220
Website: www.theastor.org
Steve Cropper: The soul guitarist is known for his days as a member of Booker T & the M.G.s and wrote songs for Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin and many others. Tickets £22-£24.

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Issues may have changed but The Selecter are still keen to get their message across

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

IT'S been two years since The Selecter reunited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their best-selling debut album Too Much Pressure.

And now, with a new album on the horizon, the 2 Tone group are returning to Kent.

They were one of a number of ska and 2 Tone bands to come out of the Midlands in the late 70s; others were The Beat and The Specials, and they found a willing audience in Kent.

The popularity of their music in these parts has helped create events such as Folkestone's Skabour festival as well as ensure venues to countless tours.

Singer Pauline Black is no stranger to the seaside locations of the county.

"Margate has always had a good crowd. In Margate it's always been good and in Folkestone as well. I originally came from Essex, so I had been to Kent many times before [joining the band]."

The group came to Margate's Winter Gardens last year alongside The Beat and Neville Staple from The Specials, but this time at Whitstable's East Quay things will be different.

"This is our own headline tour," said Black – but it will be far from just a greatest-hits show. "We're promoting our second album since reforming, called String Theory."

"There will be some new material, yes, but it's impossible for a band like us to go out on stage and not do hits like On My Radio and Too Much Pressure. We don't see the point in being back together again as an eight-piece without injecting what we feel about today's great happenings in the world.

"We have been back together since 2012 and I have to say this is the most enjoyable configuration of the band that I have ever been in.

Since the 2010 comeback, the band have toured the UK, Europe and Australia, rebuilding their fanbase and picking up new fans as they look to recapture their musical form while also commenting on the political issues of the time.

"If you look around these days, the truth of what ails society again, to some extent, are the same things we were talking about even back then 30 years ago," said Black, who moved to Coventry aged 18 to study at university and stayed in the Midlands.

"In those days I used to perform in folk clubs because that was the only place you could get to sing and play the guitar at the same time.

"People I knew suggested it would be good to go and meet these guys who were setting up a band called The Selecter. And that was that."

The group, whose name is based on the Jamaican word for disc-jockey, had two Top 10 singles as well as a Top 10 album during their first stint and have gathered a cult following.

"People listen to pop and to rock and occasionally if they want a good time people listen to ska music. I think it was Mojo magazine who said 'The Selecter made dancing the only way to walk' and I thought that was a lovely quote and absolutely true.

"It's not like we stand there going on about this and that all the time. The music tickles the brain cells as well as the feet."

■ **The Selecter play The East Quay in Whitstable as part of the WhitLive series of gigs. Tickets are priced at £15 and available at www.wegottickets.com or alternatively from Gatefield Sounds in Herne Bay and Whitstable and Canterbury Rock in Canterbury.**

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Saturday, February 9
Box office: 01843 580389
Website: www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk
The Prisoner of Zenda: Chalkfoot Arts presents its adaptation of Anthony Hope's famous adventure novel. See political intrigue, royal identity swap and budding romance. Tickets £14.

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Saturday to Monday, February 16-24
Box office: 01634 823800
Website: www.thedockyard.co.uk
Picture This: Families can get creative by producing their own work of art and adding it to the dockyard's own art project. Tickets to The Historic Dockyard: adults £17.50, children £11.

The Kings Hall, Herne Bay
Friday, February 8
Box office: 01227 374188
Website: www.thekingshall.com
Chris Helme: Best known for fronting John Squire's post-Stone Roses indie group The Seahorses, Helme embarks on a new solo tour to bring his album to the masses. Tickets £12.

Down House, Downe
Wednesday, February 6, 11am-1pm
Box office: 01689 859119
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/darwin
Darwin at Home: Randal Keynes OBE, a British conservationist, author and great-great-grandson of Charles Darwin, will give a lecture on Science And The Family. Tickets £12.

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Cut VAT, says Balls on visit to county

SHADOW Chancellor Ed Balls has called for an immediate cut in the rate of VAT to boost the economy.

During a visit to Dover on Thursday, he also called for VAT on refurbishing buildings to be slashed to the European legal minimum of five per cent.

"There are two things that the Government could do to boost the economy and they could do them on Monday," said Mr Balls.

"They should cut back VAT from 20 per cent to where it was two years ago at 17.5 per cent to provide a boost for consumer spending. Also they should cut VAT on maintenance work on homes, roof repairs and general refurbishment.

"This can be cut to just five per cent and such a move would benefit the small and medium-sized businesses that are in construction but not getting major contracts. What this country needs is some leadership.

"Kent has no Labour MPs – that is bad news for Labour, but it's also bad news for Kent."

■ **See next week's Business Week for a full interview with Mr Balls.**

Premier Inn adds 99 beds to county town

WHITBREAD is opening a new Premier Inn in Maidstone. The company says that it will contribute an estimated £6.2 million to the local economy and in the process create 37 new jobs.

The new 99-bedroom hotel will be on London Road and opens on Monday, February 11.

Sharon Barrie, general manager of Premier Inn Maidstone, said: "It's exciting to be opening a new hotel in Maidstone.

"The area is famous for many tourist attractions, which will keep visitors of all types entertained and happy.

"This Premier Inn will be ideal for those looking for great value that does not compromise on quality."

If you have a business story, **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. Telephone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**
Follow us on Twitter @KOSbusiness

From bathroom bling to jam, Kentish firms are at cutting edge of global export trade

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT'S companies are at the forefront of the drive to get British products into lucrative foreign markets.

And alongside the manufactured goods and quality foods that are in constant worldwide demand, the county's businesses are forging ahead with pioneering deals to emerging markets.

Gold-plated 'bling' bathroom accessories to Moscow, perfume to Iran and jam to Bahrain are just some of the more unusual exports from local companies.

Other booming markets include construction companies doing business with Dubai and Qatar, fashions for China and its burgeoning middle class... and fast food for Turkey.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the export documentation of goods leaving the county for the global market and represents thousands of exporters.

Working alongside the Government's UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) body, it is responsible for companies understanding the relevant tax duties and import regulations in force in overseas markets.

Business development manager Tudor Price said: "Countries require export documentation on many products and we are there to ensure that is all taken care of.

"It is of great benefit to Kent's economy that our firms do business overseas, and geographically, with the links we have to Europe, the county is ideally placed for the export market."

SHINING EXAMPLE: Russian hotels are turning to the county in search of gold bathroom fittings

The range of products leaving Kent's shores is wide, with companies eagerly analysing business trends and growing markets to see how they can supply growing demand. For instance one firm has set up business flights to Moscow in cooperation with easyJet as the Russian economy becomes a source of greater opportunity.

Price said: "It is very interesting when you look at where business is being done and what the demand for products is.

"Dubai has always been a market for the construction business and it has now been joined by Qatar, as it is set to host the World Cup in 2022.

"For some reason, jam is incredibly popular in Bahrain, and Iran is an important market for fragrances and perfumes. Turkey is undergoing an increase in demand for fast food, so that's another area we have been active in. Bling is also very important to Russia. The top hotels cannot get enough of gold taps and bathroom fittings.

UKTI's activities to promote trade include insuring UK exporters against non-payment by their overseas buyers as well as helping overseas buyers to purchase goods and services from UK exporters by guaranteeing bank loans to finance purchases.

It also shares credit risks with banks to assist exporters in the raising of tender and contract bonds, in accessing pre- and post-shipment working capital finance and in securing confirmations of letters of credit; in addition, it can insure UK investors in overseas markets against political risks.

The South East has the largest total export value of all the English regions at £43.billion for the year ending September 2012 and accounts for 20 per cent of total exports from England.

The EU still accounts for the majority of UK exports, with the US also a big player.

But new economic powerhouses such as China, India, Russia and Brazil are growing in worldwide importance.

UKTI's regional director for the South East, Lewis Scott, said a national campaign was under way to get another 100,000 businesses exporting by 2020, and the agency hoped to help more than 1,000 new companies export from the region each year.

■ **Businesses can get free advice by calling UK Trade and Investment South East on 08452 789 600 or email info@uktisoutheast.com.**

IDS heaps praise on Bluewater partnership for job creation

IAIN Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, paid a visit to Bluewater this week, praising the centre for creating tens of thousands of jobs and training many people.

In a visit set up by Gareth Johnson, MP for Dartford, he spoke to job-seekers, trainees and staff at The Learning Shop, a partnership between Bluewater, Lend Lease, North West Kent College and JobCentre Plus that opened in March 1999.

It has since been involved in creating more than 32,000 jobs, trained more than 17,000 people and awarded more than 15,000 qualifications.

About 40 per cent of the jobs have been filled by people living in local postcodes, with 85 per cent in total from north Kent.

Duncan Smith said: "The Learning Shop at Bluewater is a great example of the private and public sector working together to deliver significant and long-lasting benefits to a region.

"It has successfully worked with thousands of people, training and motivating them and crucially getting them into jobs. I congratulate them on the work they're doing."

Robert Goodman, Bluewater's general manager, said: "The partnership with The Learning Shop is the best example of this and we have worked continuously to deliver real and meaningful benefits to people living locally and in the north Kent region.

"We are very proud, therefore, of what The Learning Shop achieves and are delighted it is has received such strong endorsement."

MALL TALK: Iain Duncan Smith

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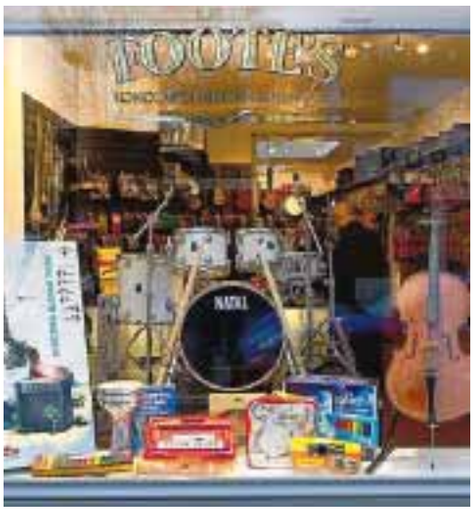

Pink Floyd star drums up cash to save music store

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A TENTERDEN couple have saved one of London's most historic music stores – with the help of Pink Floyd star Nick Mason.

The drummer stepped in with a financial investment when Foote's faced closure due to increased rent and the retirement of its owner.

Manager Rob Wilson and his wife Stella wanted to buy it but could not obtain the necessary finance from their bank.

So they approached friends and old customers of the store for investment and were delighted when Mason, who bought his first drum kit there in 1958, stepped forward to help.

The rock legend, who played on classic albums such as Dark Side Of The Moon, Wish You Were Here and The Wall, said: "My reason for wanting to retain a drum shop is simply that it's more than an opportunity to buy an instrument. There's an opportunity to catch up with any new ideas from the manufacturers, new sounds that you can't appreciate online and, of course, to talk drums and equipment with an expert.

SAVED: From left, Rob Wilson, Nick Paterno, of financial company McBrides, Stella Wilson and Nick Mason, of Pink Floyd; the band are pictured top

"There are a surprising amount of new ideas constantly being developed for what must be the world's oldest instrument."

Rob Wilson said: "At the 11th hour, our business loan was turned down by our bank – it was a major blow to our plans. Without Nick Mason and our collective of generous investors, Foote's would be no more."

Chas E Foote was founded in Hornsey Road in 1920 by Charles Ernest Foote. It relocated to Soho in the 1930s and was bought by the Della-Porta family – the founders of Premier Percussion – going on to sell instruments to top musicians for the next 80 years. Its new premises are in Store Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

Sidcup financial company McBrides worked with the directors to complete an application to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on a Government scheme that gives investors 50 per cent tax relief if they have a stake of less than 30 per cent in any company. Without such investment, Footesmusic Ltd – the new company – would not have been able to become operational.

COMMUTE

NOT CHUFFED! Winter can be a grind

Free space to work if snow falls

WORKPLACE-provider Regus is offering free access to its business centres to help firms in the event of further snow creating problems

Staff whose usual commute or travel plans are disrupted due to the snow and ice can work from any Regus centre, such as those in Dartford and West Malling, helping employers and business-owners avoid an unwelcome dip in productivity.

Workspace in the business lounge of every UK Regus centre will be made available, including free high-speed wifi and refreshments.

Based on experience from previous cold snaps, Regus expects a sharp rise in enquiries for video communications as businesses turn to technology when travel plans are disrupted and trains and flights cancelled.

Managing director Steve Purdy said: "We are offering all affected local businesses free workspace at their nearest Regus centre if it is easier for them to reach rather than their usual commute.

"We know from our customer base that every day counts, especially when times are tight, so we are delighted to offer an alternative local workplace to help businesses carry on as usual."

If further snowfall causes problems this winter, you can phone Regus on 0800 7562495.

Women are invited to put themselves first and celebrate achievements

KENT'S brightest female business talent is being urged to take part in a competition to discover women who are breaking new ground in commerce.

The 2013 First Women Awards, in association with Lloyds Banking Group, recognise the women who are setting the agenda for future generations across a range of sectors – from business and the media to engineering and technology.

Over their seven-year history, the awards have been presented to women who have broken new ground in many fields; they include Diane Johnson, the first woman to be appointed president of the Electrical Contractors' Association; the first female chief executive of the Sports Ground Safety Authority, Ruth Shaw; founder of Specsavers, Dame Mary Perkins; Angela Strank, the most senior woman at oil giant BP; and Thea Green, founder and managing director of international beauty brand, Nails Inc.

SUCCESS: First Women Awards celebrate outstanding achievement; pictured are last year's winners

Katja Hall, chief policy director of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), said: "It's encouraging that the number of women in senior positions in UK companies has increased during the last year. The challenge is to keep this momentum going.

"The CBI is proud to support the First Women Awards, which showcase achievements of female leaders."

The closing date for entries is Friday, April 5, with the awards presented at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, on Wednesday, June 12, hosted by TV presenter Clare Balding.

See http://fwa.realbusiness.co.uk/ for more information on the awards and how to enter.

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(in association with ILX) Start dates throughout 2013. A blended delivery model using e-learning and classroom based workshops leading to an accredited project management qualification. The cost of the full PRINCE2 Foundation and Practitioner qualification is usually £1250 but for the next start date (March) only, we are able to offer a 10% discount bringing the price down to £1125. In addition, ***we are able to offer a 10% prompt payment discount on the tuition fees (to a maximum of £50) bringing the final price down to £1080.*** This no-nonsense price includes the e-learning licence, all tutor led workshops, registration, exams and certification.

Microsoft Technical Training/Microsoft Specialist Courses

The Microsoft IT Academy at MidKent College offers certified and bespoke IT training courses for IT professionals and business users, to increase job security and enhance career opportunities. Flexible learning options - including evening and Saturday classes - are available, using a blended learning approach with classroom based activities and e-learning options.
Courses delivered by Microsoft Certified trainers at our Microsoft IT Academy in Maidstone.

Microsoft Office Word, Excel or PowerPoint Core (1 day) £50 each** (plus exam fee).

Course dates: Microsoft Word 26th February, Microsoft Excel 27th February and Microsoft PowerPoint Core 28th February 2013.

***Courses must be booked in February to qualify for the reduced price.*

Other courses commencing shortly – please contact us for the respective start dates

Please note – none of our courses are VAT chargeable

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- Assertiveness Skills (1 day) £150
- ILM Level 2 Award in Leadership & Team Skills (5 days) £550
- ILM Level 3 Certificate in Management (5 days) £1,700

Education Courses
- Level 3 Award & Certificate in Teaching & Learning in School £680
- Level 3 Award, Certificate & Diploma in Teaching & Learning in School £900
- Level 4 Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTTLS) (6 days) £400
- Training Assessment & Quality Assurance (TAQA) Work based assessments (attendance 2 days of theory at MidKent College required) £600
- Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Work based assessments (attendance 2 days of theory at MidKent College required) £650

IT Courses
- Windows Server 2008 Active Directory Configuring (over 5 days) £825 (plus course resources) . Start date 22/4/13
- Windows Server 2008 Network Infrastructure Configuring (over 5 days) £825 (plus course resources). Start date 3/6/13
- Windows Server 2008 Administrator (over 5 days) £825 (plus course resources). Start date 15/7/13
- Windows 7 Configuring (over 4 days) £750 (plus course resources). Start date 25/3/13
- Also available Windows 7 Enterprise Desktop Support Technician (over 3 days) £750 (plus course resources)

Health & Safety/Security Courses
- IOSH Managing Safely (4 days) £425
- NEBOSH National Diploma Full Award (1 day x 18 mths) £5100
- NEBOSH General Certificate (1 day x 14 wks) £1015
- L2 Award in Door Supervision (4 days) £280
- L3 Award in Close Protection Operations (10 days) £1400

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SKILFUL **KENT**

STRONG SUPPORT: Services charity RBLI is looking to help people get back into work

Employment skills offered for families of Armed Forces

FAMILIES of Armed Forces personnel in Medway are receiving employment training as part of a new support scheme from services charity Royal British Legion Industries.

The RBLI has focused on helping these families find and maintain regular employment. It can be particularly challenging with changes in financial circumstances resulting in many looking for work for the first time or returning to work after a long period of looking after children.

The charity has a long history of providing vocational training to the Armed Forces. They have developed LifeWorks, a fully-funded employability and motivational training course for people who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces.

Delivered from their training centre in Aylesford, the new LifeWorks Families has taken RBLI's proven LifeWorks course and tailored it towards spouses, partners and dependants, maximising their employability potential and building on their skills.

Designed around the delegate seeking work, the six-week course includes identifying employment skills and a range of interview techniques. It also includes change-management coaching as well as practical CV design, covering letters and completing application forms. It runs at the Lampard Community Centre in Chatham.

RBLI's Stephanie Cogdell said: "We are being asked about services to families who have to look at their employment options for the first time.

"[LifeWorks Families] provides RBLI's heritage and proven experience in employment training and advice to the Forces partnered with family-support services from SureStart."

If you're a spouse, partner or dependant of someone who has served in the Armed Forces and would like to know more, phone 0800 3196844, email lifeworks@rbli.co.uk, or visit www.rbli.co.uk/rbli/companynews/177/.

Make sure your future job is everything you want it to be

THE options now available to students looking to enter the world of work, as well as people just looking for a change in career, are exceptional.

No longer do all roads lead to university and higher education because there are so many choices in which to find the job most suited to you. If you are a hands-on person and like to get your palms dirty, there are hundreds of apprenticeships in very diverse fields of interest.

Whether you want to grease up an engine with motor oil or grease up a baking tray with olive oil, the right course is out there.

Students shouldn't be disheartened by poor exam results as there are opportunities for everyone.

Work experience is a key factor. You may not have the required grades, but if you have shown the enthusiasm and desire to spend your own time chasing down the career you dream of and putting yourself in the right places then often employers will respect your efforts and take them on board.

And, as the saying goes, you are never too old to learn something new. If you feel as though you're stuck in a job that you don't want to be in and on a career ladder that you don't want to climb, don't be scared to do something about it. There are hundreds of adult-education courses and Open University options available in Kent that don't have to be overly time-consuming or too expensive.

The internet has made both job-searching and the acquisition of new skills a far easier task than it used to be. Sign up for emails from job websites, actively search out companies you want to work for and scout their employment situation.

The most important thing is to be proactive. You can change what you are going to do in the future, but you have to put in the effort and make it happen. The right job won't come looking for you. Use your skills, show enthusiasm and the rewards will come. Good luck!

Students work together to make life so much more stimulating for people with dementia

DEMENTIA patients at the Gravesham Place Day Centre were presented with new 'fidget aprons' designed by fashion students from North West Kent College.

The aprons are designed as a physical and mental stimulant, with the fashion-design Level 3 Diploma students creating the garments as part of their course.

The students researched dementia to gain an understanding of the illness, enabling them to create a product that has beneficial results for the patients.

Karen Fitzpatrick, fashion-design lecturer at North West Kent College, said: "The students have done a great job at turning the idea of an apron into something that can be physically and mentally stimulating for someone who suffers from dementia."

The students used bright colours that helps stimulate sensory and visual perception, including coordination.

The group used fabrics such as silk and velvet, which were popular fabrics in the 1920s and 30s, to aid the long-term memory of the dementia patients. Beads and buttons were added to the aprons to alleviate fidgeting and pacing, which are both common traits of dementia.

WHAT A TEAM! Fashion-design students made a big difference at Gravesham Place Day Centre

Patricia Isted, registered care manager of Gravesham Place Day Centre, said: "We would like to thank everyone for their hard work. The aprons are already having an impact on our clients."

The fashion students were able to gain experience of working with 'real' clients as well as establish an understanding of dementia and the support people need.

To find out more about the fashion-design courses at the Dartford campus, North West Kent College will be holding an open day on Tuesday, March 5, from 3.30pm to 8.30pm. Phone North West Kent College on 0800 074 1447 or visit www.nwkcollege for details.

Training, courses and careers

Minister praises shop

THE Learning Shop at Bluewater, part of North West Kent College, was visited and praised by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith.

The Learning Shop is a partnership between Lend Lease, North West Kent College and JobCentre Plus. Since Bluewater opened in March 1999, it has brokered more than 32,000 jobs, trained more than 17,000 people and awarded more than 15,000 qualifications.

Uni's forensic course

THE UNIVERSITY of Kent is launching a 10-week course offering the chance to learn about the real world of forensic psychology from some of the leading practitioners in the field.

It will cover aspects of murder and psychopathy, offender profiling, the reliability of eyewitnesses, gang crime, corporate crime and the ways that victims of crime are treated within the criminal justice system.

The course begins on Wednesday, February 13.

Women get decorating

AN ARMY of female painters and decorators are helping to break gender barriers at MidKent College.

There are currently 12 young women studying various levels of the subject at the Medway campus. Lecturer Doug Warren said: "It would be a big plus to have more women in the industry, especially for single mums or elderly people who might feel more confident letting women into their homes."

Building the winning network on the long road to success

MORE than 150 of Kent's business-leaders and budding entrepreneurs attended a special event on Tuesday night to promote local business and showcase the emerging young talent in the county.

A Blast is Back, organised by the Kent Foundation, took place in Oakwood House, Maidstone.

The foundation, founded in 1985 with the support of Kent County Council as an independent charity, provides advice, training, practical opportunities and the possibility of financial support to young people who want to become self-employed or start a business.

Paul Barron, Kent Foundation's director, said: "It is our philosophy to engage and involve people as much as possible in making our events happen and leave those attending with a positive picture of the skills and enthusiasm of those we help get started on the business ladder."

The event even drew the support of Dragons' Den regular James Caan.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

CAAN HE FIX IT? Dragons' Den star James Caan is a supporter of the Kent Foundation annual networking event that took place this week in Maidstone

Speaking in the lead-up to the event, he said: "Networking is a valuable investment for all entrepreneurs – both new and old.

"Make the most of it to turn your ideas into reality and maximise the opportunities it brings to start building and growing your business initiatives."

Kent Foundation chairman Allan Mowatt said: "I am continually impressed with the quality, enterprise and enthusiasm of Kent's young entrepreneurs. Giving them the chance to rub shoulders with their peers at a networking event such as the Blast provides them with an invaluable source of advice, support and encouragement. They have much to be proud of."

The voice of Kent for health and social care

From April 2013, the Local Involvement Networks, also known as LINks, will be replaced by Local Healthwatch organisations.

Local Healthwatch will have responsibility for providing information about access to health and social care services, gathering the views and experiences of people who use services and making these known to commissioners and providers. Kent County Council will shortly be issuing an Invitation to Tender for the Local Healthwatch services in Kent.

KCC is keen to support voluntary organisations who may be interested in bidding for this service by providing grants of up to £1,000. Grants will be made available to organisations who can demonstrate they need additional support to prepare and submit a bid to provide a Local Healthwatch service for Kent.

To find out more and to apply for this grant, please go to **www.kent.gov.uk/localhealth** or email **KentPH08@kent.gov.uk**

Deadline for Grant Applications is **31st August**

Kent County Council

Major maths scheme is making adult numeracy skills add up

A NATIONAL initiative has been launched in a bid to boost adults' maths skills across the South East.

It comes after shocking statistics discovered more than two in every five adults in the region – some 44 per cent – have, at best, the level of maths expected of an 11-year-old.

Now it is hoped that the Maths4us project will help improve on that.

It has teamed up with more than 20 national organisations to take strategic action on adult maths ability.

From now until the end of March, it will support a range of activities to raise awareness of the importance of maths as well as tackle some of the challenges in this area.

As part of the process, some 8,000 'maths champions' will be trained to support other adults; an online numeracy assessment took will be launched and a series of online courses will be developed.

Funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Maths4us initiative is being led by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) NIACE and a number of key partner organisations across the public and private sectors.

Carol Taylor is NIACE director for development and research. She said, "One of the big problems is that many adults don't think that maths is a part of their everyday lives.

"We want to engage people through showing how everyone uses maths every day, that it can be exciting and fun, and that it is not something to be scared of."

See www.maths4us.org for further details.

College gets set to paint the town red

NORTH West Kent College will start a national competition in March as it looks to build on great success last year.

Aron Baker, a student at the college, scooped last year's title of Dulux Decorator Centres' Apprentice of the Year, which means the college will prove the starting point in the hunt for this year's winner.

Now in its sixth year, the contest is open to both apprentices and full-time painting-and-decorating students aged between 17 and 24 and on a recognised painting-and-decorating course.

The deadline to apply for the regional heats is Friday, February 22. Lecturers can find out more at www.duluxdecoratorcentre.co.uk.

HE'S A WINNER: Aron Baker triumphed in 2012

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Developer set to build on success

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE managing director of housebuilder Persimmon says that 2013 looks like being another good year in Kent.

Darren Jones spoke as Persimmon announced a trading update ahead of its final results for 2012, which will be released on Monday, February 25.

"As a group, we have increased the volume of new homes legally completed by 6 per cent, our average selling price has also gone up by 6 per cent and our revenues have increased by some 12 per cent," he said.

"Following our acquisition of Hillreed Homes last year, which substantially increased the number of locations where we operate, this year has started strongly for us in the South East, with a number of developments ongoing throughout Kent and new ones opening in Dartford, Sevenoaks, Westgate-on-Sea and Chatham.

"The response from prospective purchasers is also extremely positive and we're confident that Government schemes including NewBuy and FirstBuy will continue to support our sales even further."

Persimmon, together with sister companies Charles Church, Westbury Partnerships and Hillreed Homes, legally completed 9,903 homes last year (9,360 in 2011).

The average selling price was £173,400 (2011: £163,999), and revenues for the period totalled £1.72 billion (2011: £1.54 bn).

Nationally, Persimmon has recently secured an additional allocation of 3,000 new homes as part of the Government's FirstBuy funding, which Mr Jones says will lead to further opportunities for first-time buyers in the region.

He said: "As we look forward to the busy spring selling season, we're sure schemes like FirstBuy will offer many people that first vital step on to the housing ladder."

It's an admiral's life in this home

IMAGINE waking up to view one of Brtiain's most historic areas of interest. Or perhaps eating breakfast to the sound of Russell Crowe and Hugh Jackman crossing swords on a Hollywood film set.

Well, the dream could become a reality as the Admiral's Cottage in Chatham's Historic Dockyard is on sale for £850,000.

The detached Grade II-listed home has been carefully refurbished by the current owners after purchasing the property from the dockyard.

The cottage is a unique place to live, with 24-hour security at the dockyard gate house and a view of the Medway.

The Admiral's Cottage was built in 1830 for the then newly-appointed dockyard chief engineer. Since the house has been the official residence of many visiting admirals whose fleets were docked at Chatham while being repaired.

In 1984 the Royal Navy ended its 400-year association with the Medway and the dockyard at Chatham and the area is now maintained by Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. The charity oversees the preservation of both the residential and commercial buildings on the site.

Whoever buys the Admiral's Cottage will be in good company as the Georgian yard contains 100 listed buildings, of which 47 are classed as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

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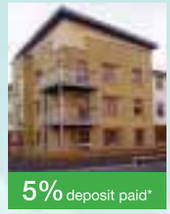

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Seat's latest challenge to the market could see sales soar

Driving carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIAT PANDA 4X4

Price: from £12,450
Driving appeal: not yet driven
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Mini Countryman

Panda 4x4 also goes Trekking

SOME 30 years ago, Fiat unveiled a 4x4 version of its Panda budget car that nobody even realised there was a need for.

Far from being a gimmick, Fiat had engaged the renowned experience of Austria's Steyr-Puch to create a serious all-wheel-drive powertrain. It was soon being tested in endurance rallies, as well as being driven to the Mount Everest base camp.

The tiny affordable go-anywhere car attracted a legion of fans, who recognised that what it lacked in brute force it more than made up for with a lightness enabling it to skip over terrain troubling much bigger machines.

When Fiat belatedly created a second-generation Panda in 2003 – the old car had been phased out in the mid-1990s – it was natural the 4x4 should be revived and have a market niche to itself, especially as the five-door body offered even more workhorse potential.

The same formula has been repeated now with the third-generation car, which is even more versatile.

But there's a new twist: apart from the 4x4 model itself, Fiat is also launching a front-wheel-drive-only Trekking version, recognising that many buyers want the 'funky chunky' off-road look yet don't want to pay extra for it.

With questionable marketing zeal, though, the brand is claiming the Panda Trekking as the world's first CUV or City Utility Vehicle – I hope the phrase doesn't catch on.

CUV or not, the Trekking has the Panda 4x4's short overhangs, plus raised ride height and ground clearance, but combines front-wheel-drive with a sophisticated traction-control system to combat slippery surfaces.

Apart from that, it mirrors its 4x4 sister, offering a choice between Fiat's award-winning 875cc TwinAir Turbo petrol or 1.3-litre MultiJet 2 turbodiesel, both equipped with stop-go and gearshift indicator fuel-saving features and quoted with an official combined mpg of about 60. Back seats can be organised in various permutations, while 15 storage compartments beats the regular Panda by one.

For this end of the market, the 4x4 has a remarkably sophisticated permanent all-wheel-drive system that apportions power between the front and rear axles depending on the amount of grip available – no driver input is needed.

Most of the time, though, 98 per cent of the engine power is via the front wheels, meaning the car behaves much like a front-wheel-drive.

Fiat says it has also gone to great lengths to ensure both chunky Pandas remain comfortable and capable on-road, using an improved and lighter rear suspension compared with the previous version.

Cosmetics include special bumpers, side-skirts and wheel-arch mouldings, door handles and mirror fairings specific to these two Panda models, black longitudinal roof-bars and protective side-strips, plus 15-inch alloys.

UTILITY: Marketed for both the city and off-roading, the Panda Trekking offers more versatility than the brand's previous 4x4s, while retaining a number of precious appealing factors

DON'T LIKE

... the CUV or City Utility Vehicle marketing speak for the Trekking. I sincerely hope other carmakers don't pick it up and run with it.

NOT SURE

... this latest chunky Panda has quite the visual appeal of the previous 4x4 model, but the Trekking is an interesting new sales spin.

REALLY LIKE

... the fact that, for those who need it, decent off-road ability as well as on-road comfort is actually cheap to buy and afford day-to-day.

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Load-lugging Chevy Cruzes ahead with a tempting price

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MOTORING history anoraks will pinpoint 2009 as the year Chevrolet got serious in the UK.

Until then, parent group General Motors (GM) had tinkered with models left over from its 2005 takeover of former Korean brand Daewoo in 2005.

But 2009 introduced the striking-looking all-new Ford Focus-size Cruze, even if GM group strategists made sure it didn't upstage the all-new Astra from sister brand Vauxhall arriving later the same year.

So the Cruze didn't get the Astra's driver-pleasing chassis set-up or the UK's preferred hatchback format; it arrived as a saloon, albeit a sharply-styled one wearing Chevy's new two-part grille and given added glamour by a decision to enter it into the British Touring Car Championship.

Since then the Cruze has gained a more practical hatchback option and, last year, a Station Wagon (estate) model, which is tested here – it is one of the best load-luggers in its class and certainly one of the most affordable.

Let's get the bad news out of the way first, though: the 112bhp 1.6-litre petrol-engine wagon we are reviewing might tempt you over the dealer's threshold with its £15,375 lead-in price and many buyers may be happy with it on the saloon and hatch versions.

However, it will not deliver much performance if you intend fully using the wagon's five seats and 500/1,478 litres' load space (rear seats up/rear seats down). The five-speed gearbox also suggests that it needs another gear when motorway cruising.

The 128bhp 1.7-litre diesel with six-speed change is the better bet – as shown by our road tests in the other two Cruze variants – even if the starting price is much higher at £16,775. It has the pulling power that you need low down the rev range.

CHEVROLET CRUZE 1.6LT STATION WAGON : £16,475 FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£170/year
Best rival:	Ford Focus Estate

Kent dealers:

Perrys	
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FG Barnes	
Maidstone	08433 160885
Caffyns	
Tunbridge Wells	08433 160843
Whitmores	
Chislehurst	0208 3020911
Edenbridge	01732 782400

GOOD ALL-ROUNDER: Chevy's Cruze wagon may not compete with other GM offerings but its space and value make it a vehicle that's worthy of your consideration

Take the petrol car out of the equation, though, and the Cruze wagon looks like a good all-round buy, with lots of equipment across all trim levels and Chevy's five-year/100,000-mile warranty thrown in, too.

The interior is stylish and smart even if Chevy's value-brand pitch is rather obvious versus sister brand Vauxhall – some of the materials, notably the alloy-effect trim, look a bit cheap.

It is also practical inside with lots of useful stowage and decent head and legroom for the class, although front passengers get the better deal – the rear seats felt a little upright for long journeys.

The boot is also what you want if you aim to use the load-carrying capability a lot: the width is good and load-lip low, with handy bins either side of the load floor; lift that floor up and you can also stash small items in useful compartments below.

On the road, the Cruze comes across as simply competent. As you will have gathered earlier from its comparison with the latest Astra, it cannot compete dynamically with stars of the sector such as the VW Golf, Focus and even the latest versions of those Korean twins, the Kia Ceed and Hyundai i30 – coincidentally, Chevrolet also builds the Cruze in Korea.

Ride comfort is fine, but the wagon naturally feels a little heavier on the corners than its sister variants, though the light steering is more of a boon on this version; it doesn't deliver much feel for keen drivers but can be useful if you happen to be making the most of the load capacity.

However, look at the wagon's price and spec list – air-con is standard – and you will realise that this is a no-nonsense old-style practical estate that cuts a dash with its Americana look and heritage, even if that does come via Korea.

First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

MX-5 spawns next Spyder

MAZDA and Fiat have agreed that the former's next-generation MX-5 open-top sports car will underpin a spin-off produced for the Italian car giant's Alfa Romeo sporting brand.

Both cars will share the same classic front-engine/rear-wheel-drive layout, but the Alfa will have its own styling and powertrain, upholding a great tradition of open-top roadsters by the Italian brand.

Fast Fiesta set to undercut

FORD has produced a new hot-hatch Fiesta ST supermini, due in March and priced from £16,995 – undercutting rivals by up to £2,000, says the UK market leader.

A turbocharged 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost petrol engine delivers 182PS (179bhp) and the Fiesta ST will sell exclusively as a three-door, featuring customised suspension and tuned steering to aid its sporty dynamics.

Merc C-Class tops leasing

BMW'S 3 Series may be the biggest-selling compact executive/family car in the UK, but the Mercedes-Benz C-Class is the most sought-after contract hire car with business and personal-lease customers, says ContractHireAndLeasing.com.

Other star lease-targets were the Range Rover Evoque, Mercedes-Benz E-Class and, of course, the 3 Series.

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO_2 emissions in Europe†. Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Panda 4x4 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 47.9 (5.9) – 56.5 (5.0); Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) – 65.7 (4.3); Combined 57.6 (4.9) – 60.1 (4.7). CO_2 emissions 125 – 114 g/km. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume-weighted average CO_2 emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, 1st half year 2012.

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MOTORING

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Seat set for year-on-year sales sprint

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPORTY Spanish marque Seat has just completed its most successful year on the UK market.

Sales and market share (1.9 per cent) set brand records here and the VW-owned firm looks set to go even higher in 2013 with the arrival of its all-new third-generation Leon family hatchback in March, to be offered in three-door (SC) and estate (ST) formats this time, in addition to the familiar five-door.

But you wouldn't know the current model was heading for retirement after hearing that 2012 was the second best year ever for Leon UK sales.

Volumes have also been boosted by creation of Seat's widest-ever range of cars, following last year's arrival of the Mii city car and the Toledo budget family model (from £12,495), the latter slotting in below the next Leon.

The Toledo's appeal is not simply price-led; it might look like a saloon, but a hatchback opening to the boot boosts practicality and it is also available in SEAT's impressive high-economy/low-emission Ecomotive form (from £16,640).

Talking of economy, the Mii three- and five-door is now available with an automatic gearbox (from £10,390) capable of even better fuel economy – official combined 62.8mpg – than its manual equivalent, creating a highly desirable urban runabout while retaining the option to select gears manually and enjoy the Mii's driver-pleasing chassis.

For those at the other end of the buying spectrum, needing maximum people capacity, Seat has launched value-added Copa special editions of its Altea MPV and its stretched XL sister, starting at £16,425 and adding up to £1,500 of extra equipment.

The racy-looking Altea is a rare beast – a sporty MPV – but it also has a big brother in the Alhambra, which has just landed the prestigious What Car? Best MPV award for the third year running, with judges lauding it as a "fantastic all-round package".

Other Seat deals include Toca editions of the Mii and Seat's best-seller, the sharply-styled Ibiza supermini.

Toca is Spanish for touch, so these versions get a touch-screen sat-nav and driver interface, but they also gain additional goodies, with prices from £9,845 for the Mii Toca and £12,700 for the Ibiza Toca.

TOP-SELLERS: The Toledo, above, is the budget star, while the Mii, below, is now available in economical automatic format

BEHIND THE NAME

SPAIN'S carmaking history had been sketchy up to 1950, when that nation's government set up SEAT – an acronym for Spanish Touring Car Company in English.

It began as a partnership with Fiat, essentially producing re-badged versions of the Italian marque's cars. When the relationship soured in the 1980s, SEAT briefly went independent, collaborating with Porsche to create powertrains that for a time bore the label System Porsche.

But Germany's VW – hunting locations to make cheap small cars – was soon stalking the vulnerable Spanish firm and began buying chunks of shares, gaining a controlling interest in 1986 and full control in 1990.

Unlike the Fiat days, though, modern SEATs have tended to be stand-alone designs, even if powertrains and some detailing come from across the VW group.

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MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 WHELK FISHERY PERMIT BYELAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of a Whelk Fishery Permit Byelaw. This byelaw will include Technical Requirements and Conditions.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be submitted in writing within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 7YH (or **IFCAbyelaws@marinemanagement.org.uk**)

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Paragon House
Albert Street
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 9HD
01843 585310
or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

Change of use to an Operators Licence

Anglo French Euro Removals ltd of Unit 15 Heronden Road, Maidstone ME15 9YR is applying to add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at Unit 15, Heronden Road, Maidstone

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at South Eastern Traffic Office, Hillcrest House, Leeds, LS9 6NF

Stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00110/FUL **Beacon Mill Cottage Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Extension, alterations and conversion of outbuilding to residential use with link from house to outbuilding, and change of use of land from agricultural to residential (LB)

13/00111/LBC **Beacon Mill Cottage Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Extension, alterations and conversion of outbuilding to residential use with link from house to outbuilding, and change of use of land from agricultural to residential (LB)

13/00121/LBC **The Oast Barn Hale Farm, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to first floor to provide mezzanine area to bedroom 3 including new timber staircase and internal alterations to form shower enclosure to existing bathroom (LB)

13/00122/HOUSE **The Oast Barn Hale Farm, Capel**
- Single storey rear extension (LB)

13/00123/LBC **The Oast Barn Hale Farm, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension (LB)

12/03380/HOUSE **1 Copthall Cottages St Davids Bridge, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Driveway in the front garden and gate to existing picket fence (LB) (CA)

13/00073/HOUSE **The Oasthouse (North) Hook Green Farm, Lamberhurst**
- Replacement of asbestos roofing and raising of ridge by 1100mm approx. Half wood clad remaining three walls (LB)

13/00063/LBC **64 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Painting of internal perimeter walls, ceilings and floors and installation of shop fitting perimeter systems including lighting. Painting of existing shopfront in same colour (LB)

13/00143/FUL **The Tunbridge Wells Bar & Grill 84 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Extraction of retractable canopy over existing dining area (LB) (CA)

13/00149/HOUSE **15 Upper Street Rusthall, Rusthall**
- Two-storey side extension (renewal of TW/10/00255) (CA)

13/00145/FUL **23 Holden Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Change of use from two self contained residential units to revert to single dwelling including removal of rear balcony and alterations to fenestration to rear elevation (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 02 February 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/2159/N - HORSESHOES, THE STREET, BREDHURST, GILLINGHAM, KENT, ME7 3LG - Erection of a detached double garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2243/S - GROUND FLOOR, 6 KINGS ROW, ARMSTRONG ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6AQ - Change of use of ground floor to non-residential education centre to teach school children in core academic skills (that falls within D1 Use). **Reason: 9**

MA/12/2295/S - DOWNS FARM, YALDING HILL, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AL - Erection of single rural workers dwelling, change of use of land for keeping of horses, extension of existing stable block with three additional stables and associated works. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/0045/S - PRIDE OF KENT, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0AH - Conversion of first floor accommodation to an independent self-contained residential flat. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0055/N - REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES, ARCHBISHOP PALACE, MILL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6YE - An application for listed building consent for installation of wrought iron gates to central tower. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0056/S - 300, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8TG - Replacement of existing single skin metal underground fuel tanks with double skinned tanks and replacement of existing single skin steel fuel pipe work with secondary contained plastic pipe work. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0060/N - APCOA PARKING KING STREET MULTI STOREY, CHURCH STREET, MAIDSTONE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1EN - Demolition of existing multi storey car park, ground floor shop unit and public toilets and provision of surface level car park with 64 spaces, spaces for bikes and additional landscaping. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0062/N - 7, RECTORY LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1HP - First floor side extension. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0097/S - BRAMLEY ORCHARD, CLAYGATE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BD - Conversion and extension of existing detached garage to form annexe accommodation (resubmission of MA/12/1367). **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **17th February 2013** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 3rd February 2013.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012

Application for designation of the Electoral Wards of New Romney Town and Coast of New Romney as a neighbourhood area

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Shepway District Council has received from New Romney Town Council an application under regulation 5 of the above regulations for the District Council to designate the Electoral Wards of New Romney Town and Coast as a neighbourhood area within the meaning of Section 61G of the 1990 Act. The purpose of designating an area as a neighbourhood area is so that a neighbourhood plan can be prepared for that area.

A copy of the application and a map of the area can be viewed on the District Council's website at **www.shepway.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning** or at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY during normal office hours from 6th February 2013.

Representations on whether the Electoral Wards of New Romney Town and Coast form an appropriate neighbourhood area may be made to the District Council no later than 20th March 2013 by writing to Planning Policy, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY or by email to **planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk**. Telephone 01303 853266 for further information.

Chris Lewis
Head of Planning
2nd February 2013

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012

Application for designation of the Civil Parish of Lympne as a neighbourhood area

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Shepway District Council has received from Lympne Parish Council an application under regulation 5 of the above regulations for the District Council to designate the Civil Parish of Lympne as a neighbourhood area within the meaning of Section 61G of the 1990 Act. The purpose of designating an area as a neighbourhood area is so that a neighbourhood plan can be prepared for that area.

A copy of the application and a map of the area can be viewed on the District Council's website at **www.shepway.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning** or at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY during normal office hours from 6th February 2013.

Representations on whether the Civil Parish of Lympne is an appropriate neighbourhood area may be made to the District Council no later than 20th March 2013 by writing to Planning Policy, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY or by email to **planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk**. Telephone 01303 853266 for further information.

Chris Lewis
Head of Planning
2nd February 2013

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012

Application for designation of the Civil Parish of St Mary in the Marsh as a neighbourhood area

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Shepway District Council has received from St Mary in the Marsh Parish Council an application under regulation 5 of the above regulations for the District Council to designate the Civil Parish of St Mary in the Marsh as a neighbourhood area within the meaning of Section 61G of the 1990 Act. The purpose of designating an area as a neighbourhood area is so that a neighbourhood plan can be prepared for that area.

A copy of the application and a map of the area can be viewed on the District Council's website at **www.shepway.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning** or at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY during normal office hours from 6th February 2013.

Representations on whether the Civil Parish of St Mary in the Marsh is an appropriate neighbourhood area may be made to the District Council no later than 20th March 2013 by writing to Planning Policy, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY or by email to **planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk.** Telephone 01303 853266 for further information.

Chris Lewis
Head of Planning
2nd February 2013

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PLANNING

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0033/SH - Earlscliffe 29 Shorncliffe Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2NB - Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.

Y13/0022/SH* - Builder Center Park Farm Road Folkestone Kent CT19 5EB - Outline application (matters relating to access only) for the development of up to 10,684 sqm of A1 comparsion floorspace and 189 sqm of A3/A5 floor space, together with associated car parking, landscaping and new vehicular and pedestrian access of Park Farm Road as well as the reconfiguration of the existing Silver Spring site including partial demolition of existing buildings.

Y13/0054/SH - Orchard House High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of a Conifer tree situated within a conservation area.

Y13/0057/SH - Copthorne The Undercliff Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Felling of two Lawson Cypress trees situated within a conservation area.

Y13/0024/SH* - Land rear Church And Dwight Caesars Way Folkestone Kent - Outline application (matters relating to access only) for a mixed use development of commercial/office units (660 sqm) and industrial/storage units (16,325 sqm) (class B1, B8) as well as 77 residential dwellings together with associated car parking, open space, landscaping, pedestrian link and reconfiguration of vehicular access off Ceasars Way.

Y13/0025/SH - San Remo 4 The Riviera Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Change of use and conversion of dwelling house to 3 self contained flats.

Y13/0038/SH+ - 4 Marine Walk Street Hythe Kent CT21 5NW - Change of use and conversion from existing restaurant / take-away (Class A3) to single dwelling including provision of bay window extension to front elevation and other external alterations.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Folkestone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012 (AMENDMENT NO. 3)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following: -

To install disabled persons' parking places in the vicinity of the following locations: - 37 Roman Way, Folkestone; 23 Calgary Crescent, Folkestone; 13 Myrtle Road, Folkestone; 30 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone; 124 Hollands Avenue, Folkestone; 45 St Martins Road, New Romney; 21 Blenheim Road, New Romney; 29 Blenheim Road, New Romney; 3 St Lawrence Court, Lions Road, New Romney; 4 Wiles Avenue, New Romney; 9 New Bridge Way, New Romney; 10 New Bridge Way, New Romney.

Revoke the following disabled persons' parking places: - 5 Biggins Wood Road, Folkestone; 6 Bournemouth Gardens, Folkestone; 25 Chart Road, Folkestone; 42 Downs Road, Folkestone; 53 Earls Avenue, Folkestone; 41 George Gurr Crescent, Folkestone; 102 Roman Way, Folkestone; 29 Wood Avenue, Folkestone; 64 Albert Road, Hythe; 9 Martello Cottages, Dymchurch Road, Hythe.

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (DPPB Consultation), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email DPPB.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Amendment 3" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 25th February 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 18 FEBRUARY 2013

SW/12/1421:
Two new self-contained one and two bedroom flats within existing roof space of recently converted block of flats, to include new rear facing dormer windows - Victoria Working Mens Club & Institute, Broadway, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 6**

SW/12/1520:
Outline application for eight 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses - Manor House, Staple Street Road, DUNKIRK; **REASON 6**

SW/12/1590:
Internal re-allocations of space and a single storey rear extension - 13 Beckett Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1604:
Change of use of land from agriculture to the keeping of horses for recreational purposes along with erection of a stable block comprising 3 loose boxes, tack room, hay & implement stores and construction of access road - Ivy Cottage, Dane Lane, HARTLIP; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/13/0007:
Permanent change of use of land from agriculture to agriculture and seasonal use as a boot fair on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 1st March and 3rd October - Land south of Leysdown Road (Caesar's Field), LEYSDOWN; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/13/0021:
To remove small tiled roof to a lean to extension and erect an oak framed orangery - Sheldon House, Lees Court Road, SHELDWICH; **REASONS 1**

SW/13/0039 & SW/13/0040:
Convert attic into living accommodation, restore 1st floor to original layout and introduce en-suite facilities, reorder Victorian extension, and construct conservatory to extend kitchen - Bessborough House, Forstal, HERNHILL; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00064/LB: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Renewal of existing mechanical and electrical services installations and internal repairs, alterations and improvements. **Applicant: Mrs H Crowder** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00080/LB: The Manor House, 101 St Stephen's Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JT Retention of replacement York stone flag flooring. **Applicant: Ms M Mansfield Jones** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00101/FUL: 2-3 Orange Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JA Change of use from retail to restaurant, two houses and two self-contained flats. **Applicant: Mr Thompson and Mr Roffey** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00118/FUL: Latchmere House, 26 Watling Street, Canterbury, CT1 2UD Change of use of ground floor to a therapy centre for a community interest company specialising in mental health. **Applicant: Kent Hope CIC** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00120/LB: The George and Dragon, King Street, Fordwich, CT2 0BX Demolition of the existing timber framed two-storey building known as the boathouse. **Applicant: Brunning & Price** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00126/FUL: 157 Station Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QA Change of use to A4 (drinking establishment) and alterations to shop frontage (new front door access to replace existing communal entry). **Applicant: Mr S Chandler** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00127/FUL: 18 Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NE Two-storey extension and pitched roof to kitchen. **Applicant: Mr Hanson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00135/VAR: Mulberry Cottage, The Street, Patrixbourne, Bekesbourne, CT4 5BZ Variation of condition 06 pursuant to the replacement of approved drawing numbers with the following: 2137 50A, 2137 51A 2137 52A, 2137 53A, 2137 54A, 2137 55A. Alterations in respect of provision of a glazed link, demolition of chimney stack and provision of a new dormer in relation to planning permission CA/11/01853/FUL. **Applicant: Mr M August** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00143/TPO: Molehill Bungalow, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Thin crown by 25% and remove major dead wood of two oak trees subject of TPO No 2 1968. **Applicant: Mrs Freeman** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 25 February 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 1 February 2013

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB293 IN THE PARISH OF BISHOPSBOURNE

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB293) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath CB293 between Woodgate Road and the junction with Bridleway CB279A (NGR TR 168 500) from the 25th January 2013

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Woodgate Road, Public Footpaths CB294 and Public Bridleway CB279A and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH210 (PART) HOLLINGBOURNE) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 06 September 2013 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH210 which commences to the rear of Glebelands at NGR TQ 84466 55156 (Point A) and runs in a north easterly direction for 171 metres to its connection with the Pilgrims Way at NGR TQ 84582 55276 (Point C). and to provide a new length of public footpath numbered KH210, which commences to the rear of Glebelands at NGR TQ 84466 55156 (Point A) and runs in south easterly direction for 3.5 metres to NGR TQ 84468 55154 (Point B). The path then turns and runs in a north easterly direction for 93 metres, thence in a east south easterly direction for 1.5 metres to NGR TQ 84535 55220 (Point D) and thence in a north easterly direction for 77 metres to its connection with the Pilgrims Way at NGR TQ 84587 55276 (Point E). As shown on the Order Plan.

The new length of public footpath has a width of 2 metres except where the width is restricted to a width of 1.5 metres for a distance of 4 metres at NGR TQ 84468 55153 (Point B).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Maidstone Borough Council‹ Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 11 February 2013, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 03 February 2013, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 3rd February 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

SHELLBANK LANE, BEAN, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to allow access to the carriageway boxes for cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shellbank Lane, Bean, Dartford, on or after 4th February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Green Street to Junction with High Street. There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Green Street. Sandbanks Hill, Southfleet Road, High Street.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

GROVE ROAD, PRESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grove Road, Preston, on or after 5 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, with no access between Preston and the A28, using this route.

The alternative route is via Stourmouth Road, Preston Road, The Street, Gore Street, A253 Ramsgate Road, A28 Island Road, Grove Ferry Road and Grove Road.

A258 LONDON ROAD / SANDWICH ROAD, SHOLDEN (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the workforce and public during site construction works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the A258 London Road / Sandwich Road, Sholden, Deal, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

This affects the section of road from the existing 30 mph speed limit north westwards to the junction to Fowlmead Country Park, and applies in both directions, when the relevant signs are on site.

TELEGRAPH ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and kerbing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Telegraph Road, Deal, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Freemens Way and Hamilton Road.

The alternative route is via Freemens Way, Mill Hill, Mill Road and Hamilton Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes from using;

Ringwould Road, The Rise, Chalk Hill Road, Upper Street and St Monicas Road.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

A copy of the proposed Order together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to Tony Jenson, Kent County Council Highways, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by not later than 24 February 2013.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

CHAPMAN HILL, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chapman Hill, on or after 4th February 2013 for up to 10 Days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Rosemary Lane to South Street.

The alternative route is via Chapmans Hill -Rosemary lane - Hodsall Street -Wrotham road-Chapmans Hill

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BABYLON LANE, SUTTON VALENCE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install gullies and interconnecting pipework, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Babylon Lane, Sutton Valence, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "Kenmal".

The alternative route is via New Barn Road, Headcorn Road, Forsham Lane.

BOARLEY LANE, BOXLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a new sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boarley Lane, Boxley, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Old Chatham Road access way to "The Old Mill House".

The alternative route is via Old Chatham Road, Boarley Lane.

QUEEN'S AVENUE, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Queen's Avenue, Maidstone, on or after 22 February 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Queen's Road.

The alternative route is via Queen's Road, A20 London Road, Queen's Avenue.

TESTON LANE, TESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to change defective sleepers under the level crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Teston Lane, Teston, on or after 9 February 2013 for up to 1 night between 22.00hrs and 11.59hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via B2010 Lower Road, Station Road, Farleigh Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

(1) Implement a 40MPH Speed Limit along Longend Lane from its junction with Green Lane to its junction with Maidstone Road (B2162) (2) Implement a 40MPH

Speed Limit along Green Lane from a point 120 metres east of its junction with Collier Street (B2162) to a point 70 metres northwest of its junction with Longend Lane. (3) Implement a 50MPH Speed Limit along Sheephurst Lane from its junction with Maidstone Road (B2162) to its junction with Goudhurst Road (B2079)

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Ben Hilden, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 24/02/2013.

John Burr, Director of KCC Highways and Transportation County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

CHURCH ROAD, SUNDRIDGE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed approximately 100m north and south of Sundridge and Brasted C of E Primary School.

The alternative route is via A25 Main Road, New Road.

HIGH STREET, CHIPSTEAD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new gas service to be installed , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, on or after 18th February 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside no 35 High Street opposite The Rock House. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: High Street, Chipstead Lane, Witches Lane, A25 Westerham Road, Homedean Road.

LONDON ROAD, WESTERHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Carriagway Surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on London Road Westerham, on or after 18th February 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed Between The Flyers way and Number 53 London Road between Vicarage Hill Beggars Lane.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Hill, A25 Brasted Road and A233 Beggars Lane.

STONES CROSS ROAD, CROCKENHILL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stones Cross Road, Crockenhill, Sevenoaks, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 1 week between 07.30hrs and 17.00hrs and 12 March 2013 for 2 days between 09.00hrs and 15.00hrs or until the works have been completed. The road will also be closed for 2 days within 2 weeks of the resurfacing, as indicated by signage.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via B258 Broadway/Green Court Road.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

CALDECOTT LANE, LYDD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace telegraph poles, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Caldecott Lane, Lydd, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Birds Kitchen, with access from either direction up to the point of closure, but no through access.

The alternative route is via Dennes Lane, B2075 Station Road, Romney Road and Caldecott Lane.

COOLINGE LANE, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching followed by micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coolinge Lane, Folkestone, on or after 18 February 2013 as shown below.

Planned closures are as follows

18 February 2013 for 1 week, between 09:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs each day

6 March 2013 for 2 days, between 09:00 hrs and 15:00 hrs each day

Further closures for up to 2 days, within 2 weeks of the March closures, between 09:00 hrs and 15:00 hrs each day

The closure is between the junctions with Shorncliffe Road and Audley Road.

The alternative route is via Shorncliffe Road and Audley Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

GRAVENEY LEVEL CROSSING, GRAVENEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track renewal works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Graveney Level Crossing, Graveney, on or after 9 February 2013 as shown below.

Monkshill Road will be closed in the vicinity of Graveney Level Crossing.

The planned closure times are as follows

Saturday 9 February at 01:00 hrs to Monday 11 February 2013 at 05:00 hrs

Sunday 17 February at 01:30 hrs to Monday 18 February 2013 at 04:30 hrs

Sunday 24 March at 01:30 hrs to Monday 25 March 2013 at 04:30 hrs

The alternative route is via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Head Hill, Whitstable Road (Staple Street and Staple Street Road in reverse), A299 Thanet Way, (Dargate Off-slip in reverse) Highstreet Road and Monkshill Road.

MANNS PLACE (WRENS ROAD), BREDGAR (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Manns Place (Wrens Road), Bredgar, on or after 6 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs each day.

The road will be closed to the north of the junction with Gore Road.

The alternative route is via Gore Road, Primrose Lane, Tunstall Toad, Bredgar Road and Hearts Delight Road.

TUNSTALL ROAD, TUNSTALL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tunstall Road, Tunstall, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 5 days, between 07:00 hrs and 19:00 hrs each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Bredgar Road and Ruins Barn Road.

The alternative route is via Bredgar Road, Primrose Lane, Bexon Lane and Ruins Barn Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE AREA (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching followed by micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Swale area, on or after 18 February 2013, as shown below.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

BLACKWALL ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works as part of a project to install a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blackwall Road, Ashford, on or after 18 February 2013 as shown below.

BLACKWALL ROAD will be closed between the junctions with Blackwall Road North / South and Goodcheap Lane from 18 February 2013 for up to 4 weeks.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road North/South, A2070 Kennington Road, The Street, Hinxhill Road, Naccolt Road, Blackwall and Blackwall Road.

BLACKWALL ROAD NORTH will be closed between the junctions with Kennington Road and Blackwall Road from 8 March 2013 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via A2070 Kennington Road and Blackwall Road South.

SWAN STREET, WITTERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Swan Street, Wittersham, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Finches and Marefield House.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Maytham Road and Poplar Road.

The alternative route is via Palstre Court Road (Wittersham Road) and B2082 Poplar Road.

WORTEN ROAD, GREAT CHART (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main across a railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Worten Road, Great Chart, Ashford, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Etchden Road.

The alternative route is via Etchden Road, Bears Lane, Bethersden Road, The Street, Park Drive, Waterfall Road, Godinton Lane and Worten Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD AREA (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

As part of a programme of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Ashford area, on or after 18 February 2013.

The planned dates and times of the closures are as shown below, and every effort will be made to keep to this schedule.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates. These will be re-scheduled, with new dates as signposted and advised locally.

HUNTER AVENUE, ASHFORD - Closed between Twelve Acres and Bentley Road, on 18 February, between 08:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs

Alternative route via Bentley Road, Osborne Road.

HINXHILL ROAD, ASHFORD - Closed between the rear Emergency access to William Harvey Hospital and The Street, on 19 February, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs

Alternative route via Bockham Lane, A20 Hythe Road, A2070 Kennington Road and The Street.

KNOLL LANE, ASHFORD - Closed between B2229 Brookfield Road and Tithe Barn Lane, 20 - 26 February, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs

Alternative route via Singleton Hill, Bucksford Lane, Chart Road, Cuckoo Lane and B2229 Brookfield Road, Beaver Lane, Kingsnorth Road, Stanhope Road.

GOLDEN SQUARE, TENTERDEN - Closed for its entire length, 25 & 26 February 2013, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs

Alternative route via East Hill and Beacon Oak Road

CROWBRIDGE ROAD, ASHFORD - Closed between Turner Close and Swallowfield, 12 & 13 March, between 19:00 hrs and 05:00 hrs

Alternative Route - only suitable for vehicles less than 10' 9" (3.3 M) in height via Crowbridge Road, The Boulevard, A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, A2042 Romney Marsh Road, Newtown Road

No vehicles over 10' 9" (3.3 M) in height will be able to use the diversion route, due to the limited height restriction under Newtown Road Railway Bridge.

ASHFORD ROAD, HAMSTREET - Closed between Hamstreet Primary School and B2067 Warehorne Road, 20 & 21 March 2013, between 19:00 hrs and 05:00 hrs

Alternative route via the A2070 Hamstreet Bypass and other local roads around villege centre.

CHURCH ROAD, TENTERDEN - Closed for its entire length, 22 March 2013, between 19:00 hrs and 05:00 hrs

There is no alternative route, as the road is a No Through Road; every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL ASHFORD (PRE-PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the rural part of the Ashford area, on or after 18 February 2013, as shown within.

HAM MILL LANE, WAREHORNE will be closed between the A2070 Ashford Road and Cuckolds Lane

Dates: 18 February to 22 February inclusive

Alternative route via A2070 Ashford Road, B2080 Rhee Wall Road and Cuckolds Lane

GILL LANE, MERSHAM will be closed between Roman Road and Chequer Tree Farm Road

Dates: 21 February to 27 February inclusive

Alternative route via Roman Road, Colliers Hill and Chequer Tree Farm Road

BRISLEY LANE, RUCKINGE will be closed between Stone Cross Road and Ashford Road

Dates: 28 February to 6 March inclusive

Alternative route via Stone Cross Road and Ashford Road

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

CYCLE TRACK FROM BEACONSFIELD ROAD PATH TO BEACONSFIELD ROAD, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay a duct in footway for cable media, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through use by cyclists and pedestrians of the Cycle Track from Beaconsfield Road Path to Beaconsfield Road, Canterbury, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 4 days, between 08:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs each day.

The closure affects the full length of cycle path, with limited access up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via Beaconsfield Road Path and Beaconsfield Road.

BELMONT ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Belmont Road, Whitstable, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 3 months, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, as signposted on site, and notified locally.

The alternative routes are via B2205 Canterbury Road, Saddleton Road and Grimshill Road

or via Old Bridge Road, The Bridge Approach, Castle Road, Teynham Road, Railway Avenue, Cromwell Road and B2205 Oxford Street.

During the final phase, it may be necessary to close Swanfield Road at its junction with Belmont Road. Should this be the case, the alternative route is via B2205 Canterbury Road and Harwich Street to Swanfield Road.

CROMWELL ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to build out kerbs as part of the Oyster Bay Cycle Trail, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cromwell Road, Whitstable, on or after 18 February 2013 for up to 3 nights, between 19:00 hrs and midnight each night

The road will initially be closed between the junctions with Regent Street and Railway Avenue for 1 night.

Please note that this section of Cromwell Road is part of the diversion for the closure of Belmont Road.

The road will then be closed between the junctions with Diamond Road and Woodlawn Street for 2 nights.

The alternative route is both closures is via B2205 Oxford Street, High Street, Sea Street and Harbour Street.

OWLS HATCH ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-line Braggs Culvert, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Owls Hatch Road, Herne Bay, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed approximately 100 metres west of the junction with Bullockstone Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between Thornden Wood Road and Bullockstone Road using this route.

The alternative route is via Thornden Wood Road, Greenhill Road, A2990 Thanet Way to Greenhill Roundabout, Bullockstone Road and Owls Hatch Road.

SEASALTER LANE, SEASALTER & RECULVER LANE, RECULVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seasalter Lane, Seasalter and Reculver Lane, Reculver, as shown below.

SEASALTER LANE, SEASALTER - closed for its entire length, from 7 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Faversham Road, Joy Lane, Borstall Hill, Clapham Hill, A299 Thanet Way and Seasalter off slip.

Northbound via A299 Thanet Way, High Street Off-slip, Highstreet Road, Thanet Way Overbridge, A299 Thanet Way eastwards, A2990 Thanet Way, Borstal Hill, Joy Lane and Faversham Road

RECULVER LANE, RECULVER - closed for its entire length, on 8 February 2013, between 07:30 hrs and 11:30 hrs

There is no alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so. There will be some times when this is not possible, with resultant delays

TOWER HILL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a raised pedestrian crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tower Hill, Whitstable, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 1 week, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the footpath to the Tea Gardens, with no through access between the junctions with Tower Parade / Tankerton Road and Park Avenue.

The alternative route is via B2205 Tankerton Road and Park Avenue.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Tower Hill will be suspended between the junctions with Tower Parade and Park Avenue to allow access from either direction up to the point of closure.

WATLING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the placement of equipment to inspect Riding Gate Footbridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Watling Street, Canterbury, on or after 10 February 2013 for up to 1 day, between 07:00 hrs and 13:00 hrs.

The road will be closed to southeast bound traffic in the vicinity of the junction with A28, with no access from Watling Street to the A28 Rhodaus Lane / Upper Bridge Street.

The alternative route is via St George's Lane and St George's Street.

The order restricting the use of St George's Lane to buses and taxis only will be suspended, to allow its use as a diversion.

Northwest bound traffic is unaffected.

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL CANTERBURY (PRE-PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in villages to the south of Canterbury, as shown below.

All closures are between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day, with roads re-opened outside these times.

BRITTON FARM ROAD, ICKHAM - will be closed for its entire length, from 4 February 2013 for up to 2 days

There is no alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

CARTER ROAD, BEKESBOURNE - closed for its entire length, on 6 February 2013

The alternative route is via Shepherd's Close Road, Bramling Road and Adisham Road

BAYE LANE, ICKHAM - closed for its entire length on 8 February 2013 and 11-13 February 2013

The alternative route is via Wingham Lane (Road), The Street (Ickham), Wickham Lane, Wickham Road, The Street (Wickhambreaux) and Seaton Road

OLD PALACE ROAD, BEKESBOURNE - closed for its entire length, from 12 February 2013 for 2 days

The alternative route is via The Street, Station Road and School Lane

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL CANTERBURY (CARRIAGEWAY PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the rural part of the Canterbury area, on or after 18 February 2013, as shown below.

CONYNGHAM LANE, BRIDGE - closed for its entire length

18 February 2013 for up to 4 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

No alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so. There will be times when this is not possible, with resultant delays.

HOGG LANE, UPPER HARDRES - closed for its entire length

18 February 2013 for up to 3 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

Alternative route via Stone Street B2068, Lime Kiln Lane, Hardres Court Road, Bow Hill.

FAULKNERS LANE, HARBLEDOWN - closed between the junction with Bigbury Road and the Kent College Junior and Infant school (note access to the school to be maintained from the A2050 at all times)

20 February 2013 for up to 3 days, 09:30 hrs to 15:00 hrs

BIGBURY ROAD, HARBLEDOWN - closed for its entire length, also including **Pilgrims Lane** and part of **Tonford Lane**.

20 February 2013 for up to 3 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

The alternative route for both these closures is via Howfield Lane, A28 Ashford Road, Thanington Road, Wincheap, A2050 Rheims Way, Harbledown By-pass, Chartham Hatch Road, Church Hill and Faulkners Lane

KENFIELD ROAD, PETHAM - closed for its entire length

22 February 2013 for up to 4 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

Alternative route via Chartham Downs Road and Garlinge Green Road.

NEW HOUSE LANE, CHARTHAM - closed for its entire length

26 February 2013 for up to 2 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

Alternative route via Iffin Lane and Chartham Downs Road.

WOODGATE, BISHOPSBOURNE - closed for its entire length

26 February 2013 for up to 3 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

Alternative route via Pett Bottom Road, Westwood Road and Pheasant Hall Road.

NEW TOWN STREET, CHARTHAM - closed for its entire length -

27 February 2013 for up to 3 days, 07:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

Alternative route via Hatch Lane, Town Lane and Howfield Lane.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

OAD STREET, BREDGAR - closed between the junction with the A249 to a point approximately 80 metres east of the M2 overbridge

Patching Works - 18 February for 5 days, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs each day

Micro Surfacing - 20 March for 3 days, between 07:00 hrs and 19:00 hrs each day

Adjustment of covers Further additional closure required for up to 2 days, within 14 days after completion of resurfacing, for the same times.

The alternative route is via Oad Street, Pond Farm Road, The Street (Borden), Borden Lane, A2 London Road, A2 Key Street, and A249

BROAD STREET, SHEERNESS - closed between the junctions with New Road and Holland Close

Patching Works - 18 February for 3 days, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs. (Note no closure needed for micro surfacing works)

The alternative route is via New Road, Medway Road and Estuary Road.

Other Issues: Works programmed for half term as adjacent to Primary School.

ST MARY'S ROAD, FAVERSHAM - closed between East Street and Station Road

Patching Works - 25 February for 2 weeks, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs.

Micro surfacing - 25 March for 3 days, between 07:00 hrs and 19:00 hrs .

Adjustment of covers Additional closure required for up to 1 day, within 14 days of resurfacing.

The alternative route is via Station Road, Newton Road and East Street.

Note St Mary's Road will not be closed at same time as St John's Road or Institute Road

ST JOHN'S ROAD & BEAUMONT TERRACE, FAVERSHAM - closed between East Street and St Mary's Road

Patching Works - 25 February for 2 weeks, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs.

Micro surfacing - 25 March for three days, between 07:00 hrs and 19:00 hrs .

Adjustment of covers Additional closure required for a further day within 14 days after the completion of the surfacing to allow for adjustment of covers.

The alternative route is via St Mary's Road and East Street.

Other Issues: St John's Road & Beaumont Terrace will not be closed at same time as St Mary's Road

INSTITUTE ROAD, FAVERSHAM - closed between St Mary's Road and Newton Road

Patching Works - 25 February for 2 weeks, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs.

Micro surfacing - Sunday 24 March for one day, between 07:00 hrs and 19:00 hrs .

Adjustment of covers Additional closure required for a further day within 14 days after the completion of the surfacing to allow for adjustment of covers.

The alternative route is via St Mary's Road, East Street and Newton Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

STAR LANE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road widening and improvements, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Star Lane, Broadstairs, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 4 months, as shown below.

The road will be closed in phases, which partially overlap, as follows.

Between the junctions with Manston Court Road and Nash Road, from 4 February 2013 for up to 3 months

The alternative route is via Manston Court Road, A256 Haine Road and Nash Road.

Between the junctions with Nash Road and A254 Margate Road, from 20 March 2013 for up to 3 months

The alternative route is via Nash Road, A256 Haine Road and A254 Margate Road

Note that although there will be some overlap of these closures, Nash Road will remain fully open during the closures, but with some times when there is no access into either part of Star Lane from it.

VARIOUS ROADS, BROADSTAIRS (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

As part of a programme of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on certain roads in Broadstairs, on or after 18 February 2013.

The planned dates and times of the closures are as shown below, and every effort will be made to keep to this schedule.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates. These will be re-scheduled, with new dates as signposted and advised locally.

OSBOURNE ROAD & SEAFIELD ROAD, BROADSTAIRS - Closed from 18 February for up to 5 days, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs.

Alternative routes

From Ramsgate via A255 Ramsgate Road, High Street, The Broadway.

From Broadstairs via The Broadway, High Street, Ramsgate Road, Gladstone Road.

BEACON ROAD, BROADSTAIRS - Closed from 20 February for up to 3 days, between 07:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs.

The alternative route is via Westover Road, Northdown Hill, Green Lane, George Hill Road and Convent Road.

This work requires a temporary suspension of parking along the whole road.

BEACON ROAD BROADSTAIRS overnight closure at the junction with Westover Road - 22 February, between 20:00 hrs and 05:00 hrs

Alternative route is via Broadstairs Road A255, Dane Court Road, St Peters Road, College Road, Millmead Road, Northdown Park Road, George Hill Road and Convent Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE & BROADSTAIRS (PRE-PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on several roads in Margate and Broadstairs, on or after 21 February 2013, as shown below.

TIVOLI ROAD, MARGATE will be closed between the junctions with Hartsdown Road and Grovesner Gardens, 21 February for 2 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:00 hrs

The alternative route is via Hartsdown Road, Marine Terrace, Belgrave Road and Eaton Road

STONE ROAD, BROADSTAIRS will be closed between the junctions with Lanthorne Road and Knights Avenue 25 February for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hrs and 14:30 hrs

The alternative route is via Lanthorne Road, Kings Avenue and Knights Avenue

RUMFIELDS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS will be closed between the junctions with Westwood Road and Bromstone Road, from 27 February for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hrs and 14:00 hrs

The alternative route is via Westwood Road, Broadstairs Road and Fairfields Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

FORD LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to permanently reinstate carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ford Lane, Trottiscliffe, on or after 23 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the property "Kildare".

The alternative route is via Park Road, Addington Lane, Ford Lane.

HAWDEN ROAD, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary install a new gas main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawden Road, Tonbridge, on or after 4 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 27.

The alternative route is via Houselands Road.

STATION ROAD, AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to upgrade the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Aylesford, on or after 22 February 2013 for up to 18 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Hall Road, A20 London Road, Rocky Hill, Broadway, St Peter's Bridge, Fairmeadow, A229 Royal Engineers Road, Running Horse Roundabout, Forstal Road, Bailey Bridge Road.

WATER LANE, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to permanently reinstate the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, West Malling, on or after 23 February 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 21 and 23.

The alternative route is via Lavenders Road, Swan Street, High Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, TONBRIDGE & MALLING (RESURFACING) (PROHIBI TION OF DRIVING & 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching and surface treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads, Tonbridge & Malling as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **18th February 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Each road indicated will need to be closed once for prepatching works (as per the schedule below) and a second time for the actual surface treatment works (Surface dressing or microsurfacing) later in the year (These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

TONBRIDGE & MALLING

A227 IGHTHAM ROAD, SHIPBOURNE - reduce speed limit from 50mph to 30mph between Plaxtol Lane and Upper Green Road

21st February to 27th February 2013-01-24

KEMSING ROAD, WROTHAM - reduce speed limit from 60mph to 30mph between Battlefields and Fen Pond Road

28th February to 2nd March 2013

FARTHERWELL ROAD, WEST MALLING - closed between Teston Road and Sandy Lane

15th & 18th March 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A20 London Road, Ashton Way, A228, King Hill and Teston Road

SANDY LANE, RYARSH - closed between The A20 London Road and Fartherwell Road

19th to 21st March 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A20 London Road, Ashton Way, A228, King Hill, Teston Road, Fartherwell Avenue and Norman Road

HATHAM GREEN LANE, STANSTED - closed between Ash Road and Plaxdale Green Road

5th to 6th March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Ash Road, A20 London Road and Plaxdale Green Road

CHURCH ROAD, OFFHAM - closed between The A20 London Road and North Meadow

20th to 22nd February 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via, A20 London Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Teston Road and Church Road

OLD CHURCH ROAD, BURHAM - closed between Court Road and Works

23rd to 24th March & 30th to 31st March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

No Alternative route

TUMBLEFIELD ROAD, STANSTED - closed between Plaxdale Green Road and Wrotham Hill Road

7th to 12th March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Plaxdale Green Road, Labour in Vain Road

BATTLEFIELDS, WROTHAM - closed between - Kemsing Road and Blacksole Road

28th February to 2nd March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Via Blacksole Road, West street, High Street, Wrotham and Kemsing Road

LEIGH ROAD, HILDENBOROUGH - closed between Brookmead and Meopham Bank Farm

18th to 19th February 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Stocks Green Lane, Rings Hill, Hildenborough Road and Powder Mill Lane

CARPENTERS LANE, HADLOW - closed between The A26 Maidstone Road and Common Road

4th to 15th March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A26 Maidstone Road and Common Road

LADDS LANE, SNODLAND - closed between Manley Boulevard and the Quarry

18th to 19th March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via A228 Malling Road, Kent Road, Vicarage Road,

The Street, Upper Halling and Ladds Lane

PILGRIMS WAY, WOULDHAM - closed between Wouldham Road and Knowle Road

25th to 29th March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via Wouldham Road, High Street, Wouldham and Knowle Road

PRATLING STREET, AYLESFORD - closed between Rochester Road and Beddow Way

18th to 22nd March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Rochester Road, Forstal Road, Beddow Way and Pratling Street

SANDY LANE, ADDINGTON - closed between Ford lane and St Vincent's Lane

25th to 29th March 2013 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative Route via A20 London Road and St Vincent's Lane

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

FOXHOLE LANE, HAWKHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for BT Openreach pole replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foxhole Lane, Hawkhurst, on or after 5 February 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Rye Road to outside Mulberry House.

The alternative route is via Rye Road, Field Green, Foxhole Lane.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 3rd February 2013**

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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RUGBY

Twickenham can see England home in Six Nations, says former Wells ace

Ex-captain and World Cup-winner feels home ties hold key to success for Stuart Lancaster's side

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

MARTIN Corry, England's former captain and World Cup-winner, has backed Stuart Lancaster's men to bring home the Six Nations, which kicks off this weekend.

The 39-year-old, who's more likely to be office-bound or commuting these days in his new life at a multinational IT firm, still pays close attention to the game in which he had such a fruitful career and feels England can pick up from where they left off in the autumn internationals when they stunned New Zealand.

The flanker, who was part of the 2003 England side that triumphed in extra time over Australia, as well as the 2007 team that lost in the final to South Africa, feels the fixtures fall in England's favour but is wary of the threat of France.

"I think the autumn internationals have changed a lot people's perceptions," he said.

"You would have said before then that the major danger coming out of Britain would have been Wales.

"But they had a stinker in autumn and England finished incredibly with that win against New Zealand. Out of the other teams, you think France would start as favourites. The big question is, can England re-create the same form as they did against New Zealand? I think they can.

"When predicting the Six Nations, you have got to look at where the games are being played.

"If it was a two-game tournament where you played home and away, it would probably be between England and France, but England have got to play Ireland and Wales away, which makes it more difficult.

"I think England are very well placed, though. The fact they are playing France at home will prove to be the decisive factor."

It's set to be one of the tightest Six Nations in recent history, with Wales aiming to defend their crown after a disappointing end to 2012, Scotland hoping to hold their own under interim boss Scott Johnson, and Ireland and France always posing a threat.

England, captained by Chris Robshaw, will be without Alex Corbisiero for the tournament but have a growing expectation under Lancaster after a promising end to the year.

It is also a chance for an emergence of talent to impress British Lions manager Warren Gatland ahead of the summer tour of Australia.

For Corry it's a reminder of his professional career, which he brought to an end in 2009.

These days he's a sales director for software firm Oracle, a strange choice for a man who admits to being a bit of a technophobe only three years ago.

Thankfully, he has left behind some of his rugby-playing habits while making his way in the office environment.

"I'm not rugby-tackling people when they annoy me," he said. "Rugby is always going to be a big part of my life and I don't have a problem with that.

"Everything I do needs to have a challenge – that's what I like and that's what I need to focus my mind."

It's that love of a challenge that led him to raise thousands of pounds for charity before the Six Nations last year.

However, this year he's back to being a fan in the stand or in the pub.

"I'm always partial to a fund-raising challenge of some description," he said.

"I've not got any planned for this year. I will be going to all of England's home games and will be there in Ireland because I'm playing a charity match the night before.

"I might watch the rest at the pub."

His long and successful career started in Tunbridge Wells, a club he still holds close to his heart and visits occasionally, having previously been a coaching consultant.

"I moved down from Birmingham and the first thing I did was join the local rugby club," he said. "Wells set me up for life – I had great times there. The players I played with back then I'm still in contact with now. That's the biggest thing about club rugby."

FACT FILE

Name:
Martin Corry
Clubs:
Tunbridge Wells, Newcastle, Bristol, Leicester Tigers
International honours
England U-18, Students, England A, England (64 caps – 30 points)
British & Irish Lions (Seven caps)
Barbarians (Five caps – five points)
World Cup-winner 2003, runner-up 2007

MARTIN CORRY'S TEAM-BY-TEAM SIX NATIONS ANALYSIS

ENGLAND
Key player: Dan Cole, tighthead prop
Corry's view: We have got very few players we could say are the best in the world. I think Dan is one. At every stage he seems to get better and better. I would be interested to see what Stuart Lancaster does at number 12. Personally, I would like to see Billy Twelvetrees given an opportunity to play.

FRANCE
Key player: Wesley Fofana, wing/centre
Corry's view: France have got a wealth of options on the wing. The more they can get Fofana into the game, the more successful they will be.

WALES
Key player: George North, winger
Corry's view: There will be calls to move North into the centre, but I think that will be a poor decision. As a winger, on his day he can be really devastating against any opposition.

SCOTLAND
Key player: Richie Gray, lock
Corry's view: Scotland are going to have a tough time, but it's an opportunity for Richie Gray. He first entered the international scene and was fantastic but moved to Sale and has been very poor of late. If he wants to prove he's the best lock in the British Isles he needs to put in some big performances this Six Nations.

IRELAND
Key player: Brian O'Driscoll, centre
Corry's view: It's the return of Brian O'Driscoll. He's had the captaincy taken away from him and has struggled recently with injuries, but he can be a big player. Time and time again he is Ireland's talisman.

ITALY
Key player: The team
Corry's view: I think with Italy, it's not about the players – it's their style of play. They have been really disappointing – they go into games with damage limitation in mind from the start. They have got good players but are trying not to make mistakes as opposed to going out to play.

FIXTURES

Saturday, February 2	
Wales v Ireland	1.30pm
England v Scotland	4pm
Sunday, February 3	
Italy v France	3pm
Saturday, February 9	
Scotland v Italy	2.30pm
France v Wales	5pm
Sunday, February 10	
Ireland v England	5pm
Saturday, February 23	
Italy v Wales	2.30pm
England v France	5pm
Sunday, February 24	
Scotland v Ireland	2pm
Saturday, March 9	
Scotland v Wales	2.30pm
Ireland v France	5pm
Sunday, March 10	
England v Italy	5pm
Saturday, March 16	
Italy v Ireland	2.30pm
Wales v England	5pm
France v Scotland	8pm

LEADER: Ex-England star Corry

FOOTBALL

Priestfield under the spotlight in TV clash

GILLINGHAM'S promotion push will be thrust into the national limelight on Monday night as Sky Sports comes to Priestfield.

The Gills' clash with Wycombe Wanderers, which kicks off at 7.45pm, will be aired on Sky Sports 1. The programme starts at 7.30pm.

Martin Allen's side will be looking to establish a good run at home after their 2-0 win over Northampton Town last Tuesday night, ending two months without a win on home turf.

The Gills defeated Wycombe in their second game of the season at Adams Park in August with a 1-0 win.

MOTORSPORT

Conway back on track for Long Beach drive

BROMLEY'S Mike Conway has announced his return to the IndyCar series for a one-off drive.

He pulled out of the final race of last season at the Auto Club Speedway, while driving for AJ Foyt, admitting he was no longer comfortable driving on the high-speed oval circuits, having suffered serious crashes in recent years.

However, the 29-year-old has decided to return for the Long Beach road race in April with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing.

"The team has proven their speed and technical excellence in the past and I can't wait to start working with everybody," he said.

FOOTBALL

Wembley dreams still intact for plucky Darts

DARTFORD'S hopes of a Wembley final are still alive after they earned a replay in their FA Trophy quarter-final at Halifax.

Tony Burman's side were given a huge boost as Halifax went down to 10 men early on when Chris Worsley was given a straight red card.

But the home side took the lead shortly after through Lee Gregory.

Fortunately, Danny Harris found the net on 68 minutes for the Darts as the tie ended 1-1.

If they come through next Wednesday's home replay they will take on Grimsby Town in a two-legged semi-final, the first on February 16.

HOCKEY

Canterbury crash out in semis to champions

CAPTAIN Tom Richford said it had been a learning curve for Canterbury as they crashed out of the Maxifuel Supersixes indoor championship at the semi-final stage.

It was the furthest the side had ever been in the competition, but it was one step too far as they succumbed 9-5 to eventual champions East Grinstead in the semis at Wembley Arena.

Richford said: "It was a great experience for us. The team has not been here before, so it was a huge learning curve. The crowd was amazing – when you can't hear your coach at half-time it gives a good indication of the atmosphere."

FOOTBALL

Holloway can handle new role after tough lesson at Gunners

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT WAS Wednesday, March 19, 2003, and thousands of Arsenal fans had made their way to eastern Spain with the hope of seeing their side keep their Champions League campaign alive against Valencia.

Norwegian targetman John Carew struck twice either side of Thierry Henry's effort as the Gunners exited the competition when all they needed was a draw to progress from the group stage.

But from that disappointing night there was a ray of hope for one man, a certain Craig Holloway who made the bench owing to an injury to number one 'keeper David Seaman.

So how did the talented young stopper end up as Margate's goalkeeper and caretaker manager almost a decade later?

Rejected by Football League clubs, he turned to non-league, where his impressive form almost earned him a move back into the professional game before a serious knee injury at Gravesend & Northfleet left him on the sidelines for 18 months. It forced him to re-evaluate his chances of earning a full-time living in the game.

"I was only 18 at Valencia," he said. "David Seaman was injured and Graham Stack [now at Barnet] was out on loan, so Stuart Taylor [now at Reading] played.

"It was great – the atmosphere was unbelievable. There were 55,000 people there. You don't get that in non-league... I was nervous.

"Obviously, when you're there you think you're going to be there for the rest of your career, but when you look at it now Stack was two years above me, and Taylor was the year above him. Realistically, it wouldn't have happened.

"If I had gone to a lower-league club I might have got a better chance, but I wouldn't have got the education, so it's swings and roundabouts."

There was a loan move to Conference Premier side Farnborough Town in 2004, and Southend United the following year, before he signed permanently at Farnborough on his release by the Gunners, where he'd been since the age of 10.

Picture: DON WALKER

INJURY: Holloway had 18 months on the sidelines, ending thoughts of becoming a professional again

On returning from injury he had two spells at Braintree Town and one at Chelmsford before signing for Margate in the summer.

The time spent with the likes of Arsene Wenger, his now first-team coach Neil Banfield and Don Howe, who was Terry Venables's right-hand man for England at Euro 96, gave him the tools for the job. Now he is on a new learning curve as caretaker boss at Hartsdown Park, where he took over after Chris Kinnear left for Dover Athletic earlier this month.

"They give you the background knowledge, the experience they've had, and the technical things," said the 28-year-old, who has now got his B licence coaching badges.

"They were the best coaches to help you understand the game and have one-to-one chats with.

"I went up to Arsenal on Monday to watch their under-21 side and I saw Neil and Steve Bould and had a quick chat. They said if I ever needed any advice I could get in touch, which was nice as I'd not seen them for eight years."

He is not intending to hang up his gloves, though, and will leave matchday duties to assistant manager Simon Osborn, with first-team coach Danny Hockton in the dugout.

ATHLETICS

Olympic star looking to help nurture the next generation of athletes but insists it won't impact on his own career

SUPPORT: Green launches Green Machine Sport

HURDLER Jack Green is hoping to inspire the next generation of elite athletes in the county through a new scheme.

The 21-year-old Olympian from Hythe launched an initiative this week called Green Machine Sport (GMS), which sees 13 hand-picked athletes from around the county benefit from his guidance through monthly seminars and advice from mentors.

Green, who reached the semi-finals of the 400m hurdles in London, had hoped to look into the idea when he retired but wanted to strike while the Olympic-legacy iron was still hot.

"We provide the support, opportunities and resources for young athletes to succeed. I see it as a support system," he said. "I wanted to do this when I retired, but it's so current with London 2012 and the legacy."

Green is based in Bath at university but feels he will be able to run GMS without it impacting on his training schedule.

"I train from 9am until 1pm, so I have got nothing left to do after then," he said.

"The squad doesn't require me to do anything – I don't need to be there. I wouldn't do it if it compromised my own career."

There will be monthly seminars from athletes past and present, giving advice on all aspects of being an elite performer and life beyond sport, the first of which took place at Ashford's Julie Rose Stadium last Saturday.

He is hoping to expand it in the future with a team for each county, but for now he's focusing on making it work in Kent.

Green started his training again in October following the Olympics, in which he crashed out in the semi-final of the 400m hurdles but put in an impressive performance to help GB to fourth in the final of the 4x400m relay.

He's now getting ready for the indoor season, in particular the European indoor championships in Sweden at the start of March.

Gills team of the Century

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

CHRIS HOPE

DOB: November 14, 1972
Gills stats: 264 appearances, 15 goals
Clubs: Darlington, Nottingham Forest, Scunthorpe Utd, Gillingham

CHRIS Hope's time at Gillingham coincided with the club reaching its highest-ever Football League finishes.

The gutsy defender, who's still playing at the age of 41 for the newly-reformed AFC Rushden & Diamonds, was part of the Gills foray into the unknown of the old Division One for the 2000/01 season.

He had already earned himself a solid reputation as a fans' favourite at Scunthorpe, from where Andy Hessenthaler signed him for £250,000 after Gills' promotion from Division Two.

He started his career as a trainee at Darlington in 1989 and he moved on to Nottingham Forest at the beginning of the 1990/91 season.

However, he didn't make a breakthrough at either club and joined Scunthorpe for £50,000 for the 1993/94 campaign. He went on to make 333 appearances at Glanford Park but was prized away after seven seasons for Gillingham's new adventure, having achieved the impressive feat of 177 consecutive appearances.

He made his Gills debut in the opening game of the 2000/01 season in the 3-1 home defeat to Stockport County, having penned a four-year deal.

He was a mainstay alongside Guy Butters, playing 176 successive games before missing one through suspension in 2003. He was made captain for the 2005/06 season following the departure of Paul Smith but missed much of it through injury. His final appearance in a Gills shirt came in a 3-3 draw at Bradford on the final day of the 05/06 season.

He was released and went on to play for Rushden & Diamonds, Corby Town and St Neots Town.

■ **So, do you agree?** Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email **greg.miles@archant.co.uk** or write to **Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SR**

Team sheet
1) Ron Hillyard
2) Steve Bruce
3) Chris Hope
4) ???????
5) ???????
6) ???????
7) ???????
8) ???????
9) ???????
10) ???????
11) ???????

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